

## Esper says Trump ordered him to stop SEAL review board

By ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Defense Secretary Mark Esper declared Monday that President Donald Trump ordered him to stop a disciplinary review of a Navy SEAL accused of battlefield misconduct, an intervention that raised questions about America's commitment to international standards for battlefield ethics.

Esper's comments are the latest twist in the case of Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, which led to a conflict between Trump and armed services leaders over military discipline. The dispute peaked over the weekend with the firing of Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer.



In this Oct. 7, 2019, file photo, Defense Secretary Mark Esper participates in a briefing with President Donald Trump and senior military leaders in the Cabinet Room at the White House in Washington.

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**Continued from Front**

Gallagher was acquitted of murder in the stabbing death of an Islamic State militant captive but convicted by a military jury of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017. Esper initially favored allowing the Navy to proceed with a peer-review board which could have resulted in Gallagher losing his SEAL status, but he said he was obliged to follow Trump's order. Still, Esper also directed the Pentagon's legal office to review how service members are educated in the laws of armed conflict and trained to wartime behavioral standards. "I can control what I can control," Esper told reporters when asked whether Trump sent the right message to U.S. troops by inter-

vening to stop the Gallagher review. "The president is the commander in chief. He has every right, authority and privilege to do what he wants to do." In yet another twist to the Gallagher saga, Esper also made an extraordinary accusation against Spencer. Esper said Spencer had gone behind his back last week to propose a secret deal with the White House in which Spencer would fix the outcome of the Gallagher review. Esper said this was a violation of the military chain of command and said Spencer acknowledged his misstep. Through a Navy spokesman, Spencer declined requests for comment on Esper's allegation. However, in a resignation letter Sunday he had said he could

not in good conscience follow an order that he believed would undermine the principle of good order and discipline in the military — suggesting he had been ordered to stop the peer-review process for Gallagher. Trump began to get involved in the Gallagher case in the spring after Bernard Kerik, a former business partner to his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, became an advocate for the family and made appearances in conservative media. The SEAL also changed his defense team to include Marc Mukasey, a lawyer for the Trump real estate company. The president has tweeted in support of Gallagher, praising the sailor's service and saying the case was "handled very badly from the beginning." Earlier this month, Trump restored Gallagher's rank, which had been reduced in his military jury conviction. Trump also pardoned two soldiers — a former Army special forces soldier set to stand trial next year in the killing of a suspected Afghan bombmaker in 2010 and an Army officer who had been convicted of murder for ordering his soldiers to fire on three unarmed Afghan men in 2012, killing two. Beyond the Spencer firing, the Gallagher case has raised questions about the appropriate role of a U.S. president in matters of military justice. Esper said Trump had a constitutional right to intervene, but others worry that such actions undermine the credibility of American claims to be a leader in ethical and lawful behavior on the battlefield. "What concerns me the most is the chilling effect



**In this Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 photo, U.S. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer fields questions at a media availability at the Halifax International Security Forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia.**  
**Associated Press**

this will have on special forces' willingness to report when they see illegal behavior," James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral, said in an email to The Associated Press. "That is tragic because in the end what separates us from our opponents on the battlefield is our willingness to follow the rule of law." Sen. Jack Reed, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee and an Army veteran, accused Trump of "inappropriate involvement" in the military justice system. "The White House's handling of this matter erodes the basic command structure of the military and the basic function of the Uniform Code of Military Justice," Reed said. Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond School of Law, said Trump's action undercut the military. "We want to be a standard for the world in terms of rule of law," he said. "I'm concerned that it undermines our own military; it undermines our standing in the world." Trump has said Gallagher was treated unfairly by the

Navy. "I think what I'm doing is sticking up for our armed forces," he said Monday. "There's never been a president who is going to stick up for them and has like I have." Last week Trump tweeted that Gallagher must be allowed to retire as a SEAL, regardless of the Navy's intention to review his standing in the elite force. Esper's comments Monday revealed that on Sunday Trump had given the defense secretary a direct order to make this happen. Even before receiving that order, however, Esper had decided the Gallagher process should be stopped. He said his rationale was that, "given the events of the last few days," it was no longer possible for Gallagher to get a fair shake. "As professional as they are," he said of the Navy review board members, "no matter what they would decide, they would be criticized from many sides, which would further drag this issue on, dividing the institution. I want the SEALs and the Navy to move beyond this now, fully focused on their warfighting mission." □

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## Federal judge: McGahn must comply with House subpoena

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A federal judge on Monday ordered former White House counsel Donald McGahn to appear before Congress in a setback to President Donald Trump's effort to keep his top aides from testifying.

The outcome could lead to renewed efforts by House Democrats to compel testimony from other high-ranking officials, including former national security adviser John Bolton.

Not even the president's closest aides who receive a subpoena from Congress can "ignore or defy congressional compulsory process, by order of the President or otherwise," Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote in ruling on a lawsuit filed by the House Judiciary Committee.

McGahn was a star witness in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, and Democrats wanted to question McGahn about possible obstruction of justice by Trump. That was months before the House started an impeachment inquiry into Trump's effort to get Ukraine to announce an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden.

The administration will appeal Jackson's ruling. "This decision contradicts long-standing legal precedent established by Administrations of both political parties," White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said. "We will appeal and are confident that the important constitutional principle advanced by the Administration will be vindicated."

The Justice Department will seek to put the ruling on hold in the meantime, department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said.

William Burck, an attorney for McGahn, said the former White House counsel will comply with the subpoena, absent a court-imposed stay.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., the Judiciary Committee chairman, said he hoped McGahn would "promptly appear before the committee."

The White House has argued that McGahn and other witnesses have "absolute immunity" from testifying.

But such immunity "simply does not exist," Jackson wrote in a 118-page ruling. "That is to say, however busy or essential a presidential aide might be, and whatever their proximity to sensitive domestic and national-security projects, the President does not have the power to excuse him or her" from complying with a valid congressional subpoena, Jackson wrote. She is an appointee of President Barack Obama.

Whether McGahn has to provide all the information Congress seeks, though, is another matter, the judge wrote. The president may be able to assert "executive privilege" on some sensitive issues, she wrote.

McGahn was a vital witness for Mueller, whose April report detailed the president's outrage over the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and Trump's efforts to curtail it.

In interviews with Mueller's team, McGahn described being called at home by the president on the night of June 17, 2017, and being directed to call the Justice Department and say Mueller had conflicts of interest and should be removed. McGahn declined the command, deciding he would resign rather than

carry it out, the report said. Once that episode became public in the news media, the report said, the president demanded that McGahn dispute the news stories and asked him why he had told Mueller about it and why he had taken notes of their conversations. McGahn refused to back down.

It's unclear if McGahn's testimony would include any new revelations beyond what Mueller has already released. Mueller concluded that he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice, but also that there was insufficient evidence to prove a criminal conspiracy between Trump's campaign and Russia.

House Democrats leading



In this Sept. 27, 2018, file photo, then-White House counsel Don McGahn listens as Supreme court nominee Brett Kavanaugh testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

the impeachment inquiry have yet to try to force Bolton to testify, and a subpoena for Bolton's former deputy, Charles Kupper-

man, to appear was withdrawn. Democrats have said they don't want to get bogged down in court fights over testimony. □



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## McConnell highlights leadership role in 2020 reelection bid

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**

**LONDON, Ky. (AP)** — Setting likely themes for his 2020 reelection bid, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Monday that his leadership role in Congress allows Kentucky to "punch above its weight" in national politics.

Speaking to a business group in London, Kentucky, the Republican leader also set his sights on Democrat Amy McGrath, calling her his "likely opponent" in the coming election season. McGrath, a retired Marine combat pilot who narrowly lost a 2018 congressional race, is among the Democrats vying to challenge him.

Without naming McGrath directly, McConnell predicted a "robust" debate next year. The senator also noted that she raised nearly \$11 million in the first three months of her campaign, saying her donors "don't know who she is, but they know who I am."

"I'm her finance chairman," McConnell quipped.

As the top-ranking Republican in Congress, McConnell is a lightning rod for Democrats across the country who want to see him ousted from the Senate. McConnell has been



**Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., addresses members of the London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson Energy Cooperative in London, Ky., Monday, Nov. 25, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

a key ally of President Donald Trump for, among other things, putting a flock of conservative judges on the federal bench.

McGrath's campaign fired back at McConnell's attempt to turn his leadership post into a political asset.

"Sen. McConnell has never faced an opponent like Amy McGrath," said her campaign spokesman, Terry Sebastian. "Her record of military service and in-

tegrity contrasts his 35 years in the Washington swamp, which is why he keeps peddling the same old line that somehow Kentuckians are benefiting when in fact it's Sen. McConnell who has benefited."

McConnell is seeking a seventh Senate term in 2020. Kentucky is coming off a statewide election this month in which Democratic Attorney General Andy Beshear defeated Republi-

can Gov. Matt Bevin by a slim margin. But the GOP won the other statewide elections to continue its dominance of Bluegrass State politics. Kentucky voters have not elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate since Wendell Ford in 1992.

McConnell said Monday that Kentuckians will decide next year whether they want to keep the only congressional leader

from the U.S. heartland. He said he's ready to "take my case" to voters.

"You'll be able to make a choice at the end of the year about whether Kentucky wants to still punch above its weight," he said. "Whether we still want to have one of the four leaders (in Congress) not from New York or California."

Also Monday, McConnell took a jab at national Democrats, led by several of their presidential candidates, saying they want to lead the country toward socialism and citing the Green New Deal and "Medicare for All" proposals.

"They're going to promise you everything under the sun," McConnell said. "There are not enough rich people to pay for it. ... So be skeptical."

The Senate majority leader is known for his bare-knuckled campaign style lambasting or lampooning his opponents, beginning with his first Senate race when he unseated Democrat Walter "Dee" Huddleston. McConnell has referred to himself as the "Grim Reaper" for his strategy of burying the legislative priorities of House Democrats in the GOP-led Senate. □



**Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks to local residents, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa.**

**Associated Press**

## After report of aide quitting, Biden says Latinos a priority

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**

**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Joe Biden said Monday that he's making outreach to Latinos a priority in his Democratic presidential campaign after a news report that his most senior Latina staffer had resigned out of frustration.

Biden told reporters on a

phone call that he's spent a lot of time in Florida, California and even Iowa talking to Latinos and has no shortage of concern for or interest in Latinos.

The former vice president was responding to a report in Politico that his most senior Latina staffer, who served as national coalitions director, had quit. The

report says Vanessa Cárdenas raised concerns that the campaign focused too much on white voters in Iowa and black voters at the expense of Latino voters.

Cardenas could not be reached for comment. Biden said he wished Cardenas well and called her "very, very good." □



# Records: Boat on which 34 died exempt from safety rules

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The diving boat that caught fire on Labor Day off Southern California, killing 34 people, was among hundreds of small vessels exempted by the U.S. Coast Guard from stricter safety rules designed to make it easier for passengers to escape, according to a newspaper report Monday.

The *Conception* was one of 325 boats built before 1996 and given exemptions from standards imposed on new vessels, according to records cited by the Los Angeles Times. The newer rules required escape hatches at least 32 inches (81 centimeters) wide and illuminated exit signs.

The *Conception*, built in 1981, had a 24-inch (61-centimeter) hatch and no illuminated signs.

It's unclear whether such measures would have made a difference on the *Conception*, the newspaper said. Crew members on deck said they were unable to reach passengers trapped in the hull below because of intense flames. It was the worst maritime disaster in modern California history. U.S. authorities are conducting criminal and safety investigations into the fire that killed all 33 passengers and one crew member sleeping in stacked bunks below deck. The blaze's cause has not been determined. National Transportation Safety Board investigator Jennifer Homendy told the Times in September that she was "taken aback" by the small size of the emergency escape hatches, adding that she thought it would be difficult for passengers to exit during an emergency in the dark. In the aftermath of the fire, the Coast Guard has stepped up inspections of similar boats across the country, the newspaper said. Several boat owners have said that among the issues inspectors have raised is the size of escape hatches, fire protection systems and crew training in emergencies.

The safety exemptions the *Conception* and other boats received in the 1990s are raising new questions. Kyle McAvoy, a marine safety expert at Robson Forensic and former Coast Guard chief of the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance Policy, said the grandfathering of older vessels often happens

when meeting new regulations is economically unfeasible and impractical. When adopting changes to the Subchapter T regulations in the 1990s, McAvoy said the Coast Guard wanted to ensure improvements and safety for new boats, but also had to address what to do with existing vessels. □



In this Sept. 2, 2019 file photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, a dive boat is engulfed in flames off the Southern California Coast.

Associated Press

## Thanksgiving Day Buffet

November 28, 2019

### Salads

- Waldorf salad with apples, celery & nuts
- Sliced tomatoes and cucumbers in vinaigrette
- Romaine lettuce with pears, cranberries, red onion & candy walnuts
- Couscous salad with cherry tomatoes & raspberry vinaigrette
- Mixed garden greens with assorted salad toppings & homemade dressings

### Soup

- Cream of pumpkin & cinnamon
- Assorted rolls & butter

### Holiday Carving Station

- Roasted turkey with gravy
- Honey glazed ham with ginger & raisin sauce
- Prime rib served with rosemary demi-glace

### Live Paella Station

- Shrimp, fish, calamari and mussels in saffron rice
- Live cooking with Chef Sandro

### Hot Buffet

- Grilled beef tenderloin with rosemary red wine sauce
- Grilled Brussels sprouts with honey & herbs
- Mahi mahi with tomato basil beurre blanc sauce
- Skin-on mashed potato
- Apple & sausage stuffing

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- Assorted fruits | Carrot cake

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# Lawyer: OSHA looking into arrest of worker in hotel collapse

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY  
NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating allegations that the immigration arrest of a construction worker hurt in the collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel construction site in New Orleans was retaliation for his reports about problems at the site, one of his attorneys said Monday. Delmer Joel Ramirez Palma of Honduras was arrested by immigration authorities two days after the Oct. 12 collapse that killed three people and injured dozens more, Mary Yanik of the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice said. She said she believes the arrest was retaliation for his reports to a supervisor before the partial collapse and to reporters afterward. Bryan Cox, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, called such claims "outrageously irresponsible." The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported. Immigration attorney Homero López Jr. said in an email that Ramirez Palma was moved last week to a facility at the Alexandria International Airport but has been at a facility in Jena since Friday. "Alexandria is the last stop" — not a long-term immigration center but one that exists only for deportation,



In a Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019 file photo, workers are raised in a crane bucket to prepare two unstable cranes for implosion at the collapse site of the Hard Rock Hotel, which underwent a partial, major collapse while under construction last Sat., Oct., 12, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

López said. "The only reason Alexandria has an international airport is because ICE deports people from there," he wrote. Yanik said she doesn't know whether deportation has been deferred for Ramirez Palma, who has been fighting a deportation order since 2016. He had lost an appeal and applied this year to hold off execution of the deportation order. "It was denied in early October but he was not aware of that. He only became aware of that when he was arrested," Yanik said. Cox said in an email Mon-

day that Ramirez Palma remains in custody: "We do not discuss future operations to protect operational security, but I will say that the rumors of his removal today are not accurate." Yanik said in an email that OSHA investigators have interviewed Ramirez Palma twice before. "The first interview was an OSHA investigator generally looking into the Hard Rock collapse," and the second was with an agency official and an attorney from the Labor Department's regional solicitor's office in Dallas, she wrote.

She said an investigator from OSHA's whistleblower and retaliation division also planned an interview. Ramirez Palma's wife called her organization the day of his arrest, and the group sent his report to OSHA on Oct. 24, she said later. His job was putting in window framing. He had told a supervisor more than five times before the collapse that his laser leveling tool showed the building tilted 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7.5 centimeters), Yanik said. She said his deportation would complicate the federal investigation into the

collapse, keeping him out of further proceedings and silencing other workers and witnesses who are in the country without legal permission. Ramirez Palma was arrested while fishing in the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. Federal wildlife agents asked for his fishing license and identification before summoning Border Patrol officers. Cox told the newspaper the arrest had no connection to Ramirez Palma's speaking out. He blamed any fear of coming forward on advocacy groups' and critics' claims of retaliation. "The timing is extraordinarily suspicious and the circumstances of the arrest also show that the purported reason for the arrest was pretextual. He was arrested for fishing without a license but he had a valid fishing license," Yanik said. A lawsuit by Ramirez Palma and four other injured workers says the project's developers and construction firms caused the collapse by using inadequate materials and supports. Ramirez Palma's wife said he's worked in the area for nearly two decades and had complained before the collapse that the concrete floors were sagging, forcing him to double and triple-check measurements in the imbalanced building. □

## Arizona tribes oppose plan to dam Colorado River tributary



This May 2014 provided by Grand Canyon Trust shows the point where the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River meet in northeastern Arizona.

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Native American tribes, environmentalists, state and federal agencies, river rafters and others say they have significant concerns about proposals to dam a Colorado River tributary in northern Arizona for hydro-power. Phoenix-based Pumped Hydro Storage company is seeking preliminary permits from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to study sites on the Navajo Nation, east of Grand Canyon National Park. The company's manager, Steve Irwin, has touted the potential economic benefits of damming the Little

Colorado River in four locations, including paved roads, tourism and jobs. The Navajo Nation owns the land, and the projects won't move forward without the tribe's OK. The tribe wrote in comments posted online Monday that the dams could negatively impact its land, water, wildlife and cultural resources. Cameron, the Navajo community closest to the proposed projects, already has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to deny the permits. The Hopi, Hualapai and Havasupai tribes also said they are concerned about possible impacts to sacred

and historical sites and want to ensure the federal government keeps them in the loop on the proposals. "A project such as this would forever disturb a traditional cultural landscape that maintains historic and sacred value and that is part of the cultural identity of the Hualapai people and other neighboring tribes," Hualapai Chairman Damon Clarke and Peter Bungart, the tribe's historic preservation officer, wrote in their comments. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has no hard deadline to act on the request for the preliminary permits. □



# 42 charged after protest delays Harvard-Yale game

**NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)**

— Officials say 42 people were charged with disorderly conduct after a protest interrupted a Saturday football game between archrivals Harvard and Yale.

Students and alumni from both schools occupied the midfield of the Yale Bowl

during Saturday's halftime protest. Some held banners urging their colleges to act on climate change. Other signs referred to Puerto Rican debt relief and China's treatment of Uighurs.

Most protesters walked off after about an hour; those who remained were charged with misdemean-

or disorderly conduct. They were issued a court summons and released, according to a statement from Yale University.

Actor Sam Waterston was among those arrested, according to the Connecticut Post. The actor known for his roles in TV's "Law & Order," "The Newsroom" and



In this Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, photo, an officer lifts a student up during a protest during halftime of the NCAA college football game between Harvard and Yale at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Conn.

Associated Press

## Remains found believed to be UFC fighters' stepdaughter

**AUBURN, Ala. (AP)**

— An Alabama district attorney said Monday that authorities have "good reason" to believe human remains found in a wooded area belong to the missing stepdaughter of a UFC heavyweight fighter.

The remains were found on a county road in neighboring Macon County, Lee County District Attorney Brandon Hughes told The Associated Press.

"I can confirm that human remains have been found in Macon County on County Road 2 and we have good reason to believe they are that of Aniah Blanchard," Hughes said.

Police arrested a third person Monday in connection with the disappearance of Blanchard, 19. She was last seen Oct. 23 in Auburn. Her stepfather is UFC fighter Walt Harris.

After she disappeared, Blanchard's black Honda CRV was found abandoned more than 50 miles (90 kilometers) away at an apartment complex in Montgomery, Alabama. Auburn police detective Josh Mixon testified at a hearing last week that Blanchard's blood was found in the car and it appeared she had suffered a life-threatening injury.

Mixon testified that convenience store video footage showed a man buying a beverage look over at Blanchard. He said tipsters later identified the man as Ibraheem Yazeed, 29, and a man at the store told investigators he saw Yazeed force Blanchard into her car and drive away.



Ibrahim Yazeed, second left, appears in court for a hearing on the disappearance of college student Aniah Blanchard, on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 in Opelika, Ala.

Associated Press

Police have arrested Yazeed and a second man, 35-year-old Antwain Shamar Fisher of Montgomery, on kidnapping charges in Blanchard's disappearance. In an arrest warrant filed with the court Monday, police said Fisher helped Yazeed by disposing of evidence and driving him. Hughes said a third man, David Johnson, Jr., was arrested Monday in Montgomery and charged with hindering prosecution in the case.

The discovery of human remains comes after a month-long search for the missing teen whose face appears on billboards across the county.

Auburn Police said Monday that investigators "obtained information regarding the possible location of a body." Law enforcement officials searched a wooded area in Shorter, Alabama, and found what appeared to be human remains several feet into the woods. □

"Grace and Frankie" is a graduate of Yale and was also arrested last month, at a climate protest in Washington.

Organizers of the protest had initially estimated that 20 to 30 protesters were arrested.

Rachel Sadoff, a junior at Harvard, said about 150 students from the two universities had planned to participate and about 100 more who were sitting in the stands joined in. She said organizers considered the protest a success.

"Our goal was to spread the word," Sadoff said. "If more people speak up, our colleges will have to listen." Yale officials said in a statement handed to reporters in the press box during the fourth quarter that the school "stands firmly for the right to free expression."

After the game resumed, Yale went on to beat Harvard 50-43, clinching the Ivy League championship. Saturday's matchup was the 136th edition of the football rivalry between the two schools. □



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## Uber loses license in London over safety, vows to appeal

By **KELVIN CHAN**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — London's transit authority on Monday refused to renew Uber's operating license over concerns about impostor drivers, with the ride-hailing company vowing to appeal the decision as it struggles to secure its future in the British capital.

It's the latest chapter in Uber's rocky history with London transport officials, who have subjected the San Francisco-based tech company to ever tighter scrutiny over concerns about passenger safety and security.

Uber called the decision "extraordinary and wrong," and has 21 days to file an appeal, which it said it would do. It can continue operating during the appeals process.

Transport for London cited "several breaches that placed passengers and their safety at risk" in its decision not to extend Uber's license, which expires at midnight Monday. Among other things, unauthorized drivers carried out thousands of rides, the regulator said.

"While we recognize Uber has made improvements, it is unacceptable that Uber has allowed passengers to get into minicabs with drivers who are potentially unlicensed and uninsured," said Helen Chapman, director of licensing and regulation at Transport for London, known as TFL.

"We cannot be confident that similar issues won't happen again in future."

The company fired back, pointing out that TFL had found it fit and proper in its



In this Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016 file photo, London taxis block the roads during a protest in central London, concerned with unfair competition from services such as Uber.

Associated Press

most recent license renewal in September.

"We understand we're held to a high bar, as we should be. But this TFL decision is just wrong," CEO Dara Khosrowshahi tweeted. "Over the last 2 years we have fundamentally changed how we operate in London."

The denial in a lucrative European market is a big setback for Uber as it struggles to turn a profit. The company posted a \$1.16 billion loss in the latest quarter and Khosrowshahi forecast it wouldn't make a profit until 2021. Shares fell 1.5% in New York.

TFL had already been keeping Uber on a tight leash. It had revoked Uber's license once before, in 2017, but a court later granted it a license lasting 15 months, which TFL then extended for two more months in September, but added 20

conditions.

In the latest decision, the transit authority said it was concerned Uber's systems "seem to have been comparatively easily manipulated" by drivers.

One key issue was a change to Uber's systems allowing unauthorized drivers to upload their photos to other driver accounts. This let them pick up passengers as though they were the booked Uber driver on at least 14,000 trips, which means all those journeys were uninsured, TFL said.

The change also resulted in some passengers traveling with unlicensed drivers, including one whose license was previously revoked by TFL.

TFL faulted Uber for another "failure" that allowed dismissed or suspended drivers to create a new account and carry pas-

sengers. And it cited other "serious breaches" involving unspecified insurance-related issues.

Uber said it has audited every London driver over the past two months and will soon launch a new "facial matching process" for its Microsoft-powered verification system, which requires drivers to periodically take selfies for comparison with their account photos. Drivers will have to more actively confirm their identity by blinking, smiling or turning their head — part of recently announced beefed up safety measures.

Investors shouldn't be under the impression the phony photo issue is limited to London, said Dan Ives, managing director at Wedbush Securities, who estimated London represents 3% to 5% of Uber's business.

"Regulators around the world are going to scruti-

nize this issue, peel away the onion and make sure there are no similar issues," he said.

In the U.S., safety advocates have criticized Uber for conducting less thorough background checks on drivers than traditional taxi companies, which generally check drivers' fingerprints against databases.

Uber has been slugging it out with regulators in recent months and losing. California recently passed legislation to make companies treat rideshare drivers as employees instead of independent contractors, which could force Uber to provide health and other costly benefits.

New Jersey's labor department recently sought more than \$640 million from Uber, saying it misclassified drivers as independent contractors, and New York has enacted a minimum wage for drivers, which Uber passed along to customers in the form of higher prices.

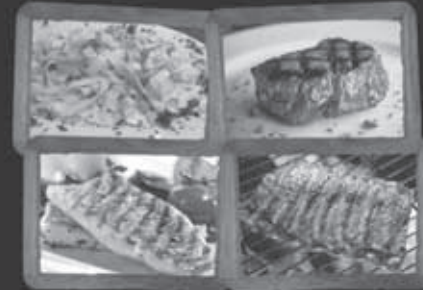
"It feels like the regulators have the upper hand," Ives said.

Baked into Uber's business plan is the assumption that many mundane parts of running a business, including recruiting and dispatching drivers, can be automated or handled by a driver, said Nicholas Farhi, a partner at OC&C Strategy Consultants. That may save money, but it doesn't guarantee safety.

By contrast, becoming a black cab driver in London takes about three years.

"The temptation with a platform as big as Uber for fraud is pretty high," Farhi said. □



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## France pledges millions to stop deadly domestic violence

**PARIS (AP)** — Under unprecedented public pressure, France's government pledged Monday to seize firearms from abusive spouses and better train police as part of a broad national plan to reduce the number of women killed by their partners.

Such killings happen around the world, every day, so common that they go largely ignored — at least until now, French activists hope. France has among the highest domestic violence rates in Europe, which President Emmanuel Macron has described as "France's shame."

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe unveiled several dozen measures Monday to tackle the problem, including electronic bracelets for abusers and 1,000 new places in shelters for battered women.

Monday's announcement marked the end of a two-month government project to correct what Philippe called "dysfunctions" in France's response to domestic violence.

"The first success of this effort is to break this chain of silence," Philippe said Monday.

At least 138 women have been killed by current or former partners this year in France, according to activists who track the deaths. Many had reported abuse to police.

The government will allocate 360 million euros (\$396 million) next year toward implementing the new measures, which Philippe said he hopes will serve as "an electroshock in our so-



Women hold placards as they march against domestic violence, in Paris, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019. Associated Press

ciety."

Violence against women remains prevalent across the globe, and Monday's announcement was timed to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. A nongovernmental organization in Germany lit up buildings across the country in orange to mark the occasion, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa pledged to reopen unsolved sexual assault cases.

In Spain on Monday, feminist activists confronted a prominent far-right Spanish politician after he used an event against gender violence to advocate for abolishing the country's law aimed at protecting women. The action reverberated in evening marches joined by tens of thousands

across Spain in remembrance of more than 1,000 women who have been killed by their partners or former partners since the country began keeping records in 2003.

Macron, meanwhile, spoke with domestic violence victims in the Paris suburb of Créteil on Monday afternoon.

The International Criminal Police Organization, or INTERPOL, also put out a public call for help in finding eight international fugitives wanted for violent crimes against women.

A 2014 EU survey of 42,000 women across all 28 member states found that 26% of French respondents said they had been abused by a partner since age 15, either physically or sexually. That's below the global average of 30%, according

to UN Women, a branch of the United Nations focused on gender equality and female empowerment. But it's above the EU average and the sixth highest among EU countries.

Victims and activists have charged that French authorities often leave women unprotected, and a Justice Ministry report released earlier this month acknowledged authorities' systematic failure to intervene to prevent domestic violence killings.

French activists have waged an unusual campaign this year to pressure the government to address domestic violence. They've glued posters with the names of victims over French city buildings and marched through the streets at each new death. Tens of thousands

descended on Paris and other French cities over the weekend to demand stronger government action.

Among other measures announced Monday, the government will create prevention programs in schools, codify "psychological violence" as a form of domestic violence, and open two centers in each region to house perpetrators so that victims can remain in their homes.

Philippe said Monday that the government would create 80 new positions throughout the country for point officers to handle domestic violence complaints.

On Friday, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner and gender equality minister Marlène Schiappa unveiled a new 23-question evaluation rubric that police officers will use to assess the dangers women face.

Schiappa, who spearheaded the government project, said police training is a priority.

For some family members of victims, however, the measures announced Monday were too little, too late. Noujoud-Asia Ghemri, whose sister was allegedly killed by her husband in April, called them "a drop in the bucket."

Ghemri said her sister, Dalila, was shot by her husband in front of their home in Vidauban in southern France shortly after a judge ruled that he could continue to enter the house for work reasons. The husband was arrested in April and handed preliminary murder charges. □





Demonstrators burn representations of the U.S. flag during a pro-government rally denouncing last week's violent protests over a fuel price hike, in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Nov. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

## Iran's Guard threatens U.S., allies over protests

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened the U.S. and its allies Monday as he addressed a pro-government demonstration attended by tens of thousands of people denouncing last week's violent protests over a fuel price hike.

Gen. Hossein Salami, echoing other Iranian officials, accused the U.S., Britain, Israel and Saudi Arabia of stoking the unrest. He said the rise in gasoline prices was a "mere pretext" for an attack on the nation. "If you cross our red line, we will destroy you," he said. "We will not leave any move unanswered." He said if Iran decides to respond, "the enemy will not have security anywhere," adding that "our patience has a limit."

Amnesty International said late Monday that at least 143 people have been killed in the protests since Nov. 15, updating an earlier toll. The London-based rights group said it had "clear evidence" that Iranian security forces used firearms against unarmed protesters. "The rising death toll is an alarming indication of just how ruthless the treatment of unarmed protesters has been by the Iranian authorities and reveals their appalling assault on human life," said Philip Luther, Amnesty's research

and advocacy director for the Middle East and North Africa. Iran has not released a death toll and cut off internet for several days, making it difficult to ascertain the extent and severity of the demonstrations.

At the pro-government rally, which state TV referred to as the "Rise of the people of Tehran against riots," protesters carried signs bearing traditional anti-U.S. slogans. But speakers also criticized President Hassan Rouhani's administration for the way the fuel price hike was implemented, even as they called for capital punishment for rioters and further restrictions on social media platforms.

Iran has been gripped by a severe economic crisis since the U.S. restored painful sanctions after withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal.

In a separate development, Iran's agriculture minister resigned a day before he was to face an impeachment hearing in parliament. The presidency's website said President Hassan Rouhani accepted the resignation of Mahmoud Hojjati and then appointed him as an assistant in agricultural and food security affairs. Iran's parliament planned to impeach Hojjati after some of his appointed managers were arrested on corruption charges. □



In this April 27, 2016, file photo, people walk past a shop selling pirated movie DVDs and music CDs in Beijing.

Associated Press

## China sets tougher guidelines to protect patents, copyrights

**BEIJING (AP)** — China issued new, tougher guidelines for protection of patents, copyrights and other intellectual property in a move that may be timed to help along halting progress in trade talks with the United States.

The guidelines issued late Sunday by the State Council, or Cabinet, and by the powerful Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party order beefed up laws for protecting such intellectual property rights, increased compensation for infringements and stricter enforcement of existing laws. They also lower the threshold for criminal prosecution of IPR offenses.

The new blueprint makes protection of intellectual property one of the criteria for evaluating local government officials' performance, creating a greater incentive for compliance. In past decades, officials were judged mainly by political loyalties and economic growth in their localities. More recently, China's leaders added environmental protection to such evaluations. Putting future promotions and income on the line could create much stronger motivation to more effectively enforce such laws.

Theft and forced transfers of technology and inadequate protection of copyrights, patents and trademarks are perennial complaints of foreign companies operating in China and are among the key issues in the latest flareup in trade tensions.

Despite much progress, "China continues to be a haven for counterfeiting, digital piracy and IP theft," the U.S. government's International Trade Administration said in a recent report. It said piracy of U.S. intellectual property by China costs American companies up to \$600 billion a year.

Piracy is also a domestic concern. The government has long said that companies are less likely to innovate if they cannot profit off the results of their investments due to piracy of their products and technology. The IPR guidelines issued by the official Xinhua News Agency did not refer specifically to the trade talks. Improving those protections is the "The driver of our country's economic competitiveness," it said.

The new rules call for "greatly increasing the maximum amount of compensation for damages linked to IPR infringements" and include confiscation of illegal in-

come, destruction of counterfeit goods. The guidelines did not include specific penalties, which would come with later revisions of laws and regulations. They call for significantly improving the enforcement of IPR protections by 2022.

Hopes for progress in resolving the costly trade dispute between the U.S. and China have revived in recent days with upbeat comments from both sides.

President Donald Trump said Friday at an NCAA National Collegiate Champions Day event that the "China deal is coming along very well."

He also suggested that he might not sign a congressional resolution in support of human rights in Hong Kong following months of protests, out of concern that might derail the trade talks. A desire to keep those negotiations on track was a factor deterring China from intervening in the turmoil, he asserted.

Asked Monday about the status of the trade talks, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman reiterated Beijing's stance that it hopes to reach an agreement based on "mutual respect." "We hope the U.S. side will meet us halfway," said Geng Shuang. □





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## More polio cases now caused by vaccine than by wild virus

**LONDON (AP)** — Four African countries have reported new cases of polio linked to the oral vaccine, as global health numbers show there are now more children being paralyzed by viruses originating in vaccines than in the wild. In a report late last week, the World Health Organization and partners noted nine new polio cases caused by the vaccine in Nigeria, Congo, Central African Republic and Angola. Seven countries elsewhere in Africa have similar outbreaks and cases have been reported in Asia. Of the two countries where polio remains endemic, Afghanistan and Pakistan, vaccine-linked cases have been identified in Pakistan. In rare cases, the live virus in oral polio vaccine can mutate into a form capable of sparking new outbreaks. All the current vaccine-derived polio cases have been sparked by a Type 2 virus contained in the vaccine. Type 2 wild virus was eliminated years ago. Polio is a highly infectious disease that spreads in contaminated water or food and usually strikes children under 5. About one

in 200 infections results in paralysis. Among those, a small percentage die when their breathing muscles are crippled. Donors last week pledged \$2.6 billion to combat polio as part of an eradication initiative that began in 1988 and hoped to wipe out polio by 2000. Since then, numerous such deadlines have been missed. To eradicate polio, more than 95% of a population needs to be immunized. WHO and partners have long relied on oral polio vaccines because they are cheap and can be easily administered, requiring only two drops per dose. Western countries use a more expensive injectable polio vaccine that contains an inactivated virus incapable of causing polio. The Independent Monitoring Board, a group set up by WHO to assess polio eradication, warned in a report this month that vaccine-derived polio virus is "spreading uncontrolled in West Africa, bursting geographical boundaries and raising fundamental questions and challenges for the whole eradication process."

The group said officials were already "failing badly" to meet a recently approved polio goal of stopping all vaccine-derived outbreaks within 120 days of detection. It described the initial attitude of WHO and its partners to stopping such vaccine-linked polio cases as "relaxed" and said "new thinking" on how to tackle the problem was needed. □



In this Jan. 25, 2002 file photo, a Congolese child is given a polio vaccination at a relief camp near Gisenyi, Rwanda.

Associated Press

## Death toll rises to 65 in Kenya flooding over weekend



Passengers from stranded vehicles stand next to the debris from floodwaters, on the road from Kapenguria, in West Pokot county, in western Kenya Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

By TOM ODULA

Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — Heavy rains in Kenya unleashed a deluge that killed five people overnight in the Rift Valley, raising the death toll from weekend flooding to 65, officials said Monday. The five were returning home after attending a wedding in Tanzania when their car was washed away, said Daudi Loronyokwe, a police chief in Kajiado Central community.

The victims included three children, he said.

Governor John Lonyang'apuo said between 80,000 and 120,000 people have been affected in West Pokot county, the worst hit by the floods and mudslides. The governor said at least 52 people were confirmed dead there.

"I have lost three children," said one resident, William Lokapel. He described how his wife managed to struggle to safety, clutching an-

other child, after the mudslide covered their home while they slept.

The torrential rain is uncommon for this time of year. Parts of the country could continue to face destructive flooding this week, the Kenya Red Cross said. The aid group Evacuations continued.

"No one can sleep in their homes for now because we don't know when the next land slide will occur," resident Peter Lokor said. "So many people have been affected, actually all those who live in this area, and everybody is afraid of going back home."

The Kenya Red Cross cited what it called a record-breaking temperature rise in the Indian Ocean in recent weeks that also has caused flooding in South Sudan and Somalia. Now Djibouti is affected. The Horn of Africa nation's capital reportedly saw more than three times its annual rainfall between Thursday and Sunday alone, the United Nations humanitarian office said. More heavy rains are forecast. □



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# Priests guilty of abusing deaf children at Argentine school

**MENDOZA, Argentina (AP)**

— Two priests were found guilty on Monday of sexually abusing deaf children at a Catholic-run school in Argentina, a case that has shaken the church in Pope Francis's homeland.

A three-judge panel in the city of Mendoza sentenced the Rev. Nicola Corradi to 42 years in prison and the Rev. Horacio Corbacho to 45 years, for abusing children at the Antonio Provolo Institute for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children in Lujan de Cuyo, a municipality in northwestern Argentina. Corradi, an 83-year-old Italian, and Corbacho, a 59-year-old Argentine, were arrested in 2016.

The court also sentenced gardener Armando Gómez to 18 years in prison. The victims are 10 former students.

The accused declined to make statements ahead of the judges' ruling. They appeared somber as they arrived in the courtroom, with Corradi in a wheelchair, his gaze fixed on the ground. The case has shocked Argentines — as did the revelation that Corradi had been previously accused of similar offences at a sister agency, the Antonio Provolo Institute in Verona, Italy, but was never charged.



Rev. Nicola Corradi, in wheelchair, Armando Gomez and Rev. Horacio Corbacho, are escorted out of a courtroom, after being found guilty of sexual abuse of deaf children at a Catholic-run school, in Mendoza, Argentina, Monday, Nov. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

The Vatican had known about Corradi since at least 2009, when the Italian Provolo students went public with tales of abuse and named names. The Vatican ordered an investigation and sanctioned four accused priests, but Corradi apparently never was sanctioned in Italy.

The defendants, who pleaded innocence, said the students' stories were improbable.

"The Argentine court has given the traumatized children of Provolo a measure of justice that the Catholic Church failed to give them," said Anne Barrett Doyle, co-founder of the online research database BishopAccountability.org, to the Associated Press.

"The horror of Provolo is twofold: the torture of the children and the Church's failure to prevent it. We hope the prosecutors now

will launch a criminal investigation of the archbishops and other church leaders who knew or should have known that the school was being run by a child molester."

Doyle also said that "the Pope too must accept responsibility for the unimaginable suffering of these children. He ignored repeated warnings that Corradi was in Argentina."

Pope Francis has not com-

mented publicly on the case, though in 2017, the Vatican sent two Argentine priests to investigate what happened in Mendoza. Dante Simon, a judicial vicar, told The Associated Press that the "horrible" allegations are "more than plausible." He said the pontiff expressed his sadness and told him that "he was very worried about this situation."

In a report submitted to the Vatican that June, Simon requested the maximum canonical penalty for Corradi and Corbacho, that they be made to "resign directly by the Holy Father." His report must be reviewed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Corradi, who was the director of the institute, has been under house arrest because of his age, while Corbacho and Gómez were being held in a jail in the provincial capital of Mendoza.

Former students, young men and women, testified that the priests touched and sometimes raped them in their dormitories and school bathrooms. They also said they were forced to look at pornographic images. They said they were warned to keep quiet.

Investigators found records of complaints made by parents that weren't followed up, photographs of a naked girl on Corbacho's computer and chains he allegedly used to subdue one girl.

Many in Argentina have asked why Francis did not remove Corradi as the authority at the Mendoza school once he learned of the allegations in Verona. Corradi's name appeared publicly in 2009, when 67 people said they were abused at the Verona institute by 24 priests, lay people and religious brothers, and specifically said that Corradi was in Argentina.

In 2012, the diocese of Verona asked for forgiveness from the victims and sanctioned 24 of the accused, although Corradi was not among them. None of the cases ever went to trial. □

## Leader of LGBTQ organization in Haiti found dead

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Charlot Jeudy, the leader of a prominent LGBTQ organization in Haiti, was found dead on Monday, according to friends.

Geraldine Clair Museau, a member of the group known as Kouraj, which means "courage," in English, told The Associated Press that Jeudy's body was found at his home in the capital of Port-au-Prince.

It wasn't immediately clear how he died, and police didn't return calls for comment.

Jeudy has spoken out against homophobia and was forced to cancel a festival celebrating the Afro-Caribbean LGBTQ com-



In this July 13, 2018 file photo, Yaisah Val, 46, left, a transgender woman, laughs with Charlot Jeudy, center, president of Kouraj, Haiti's leading LGBT-rights group, at their office in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press

munity in 2016 because of numerous threats of violence.

In a statement on his group's website, Jeudy had vowed to keep fight-

ing discrimination.

"Faced with such permanent and brutal stigmatization, violence, and insults, many of us — if not the totality — have lost hope to see our own dignity respected. ... That is what I want to fight," he wrote.

Haiti's LGBTQ community remains mostly underground because of social stigma, although there are no laws criminalizing homosexual relations as there are in several English-speaking Caribbean islands.

A 2015 human rights report on Haiti by the U.S. State Department said "local attitudes remained hostile to outward" LGBTQ identification and expression, especially in the capital. □



## LOCAL



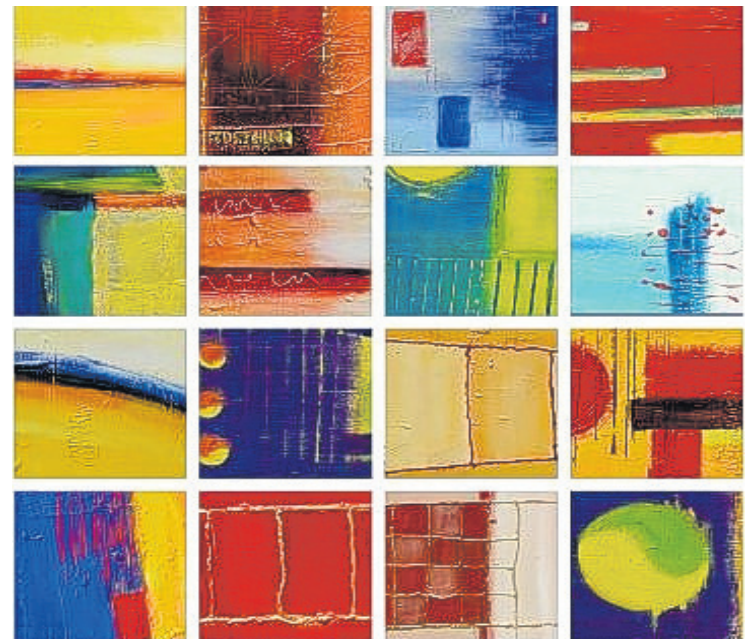
## Pop-Up art exhibition 'Balance'

**ORANJESTAD – 'Balance' is a one-week Pop-up art exhibition by local artist Grace Ashruf Rahusen, which opens with a reception on Wednesday, November 27. There is no admission and this art-expo is open to the public.**

Throughout this collection a reoccurring thematic circle exists. On the surface, this circle is symbolic of the sun & moon— together they are ever-present in our world. Deeper, the circle represents another endless spirit within each of us. We all have an inner strength

we muster to take steps toward our goals and the roads we take to reach them. This is a powerful and universal force, which like the sun & moon requires balance to attain success. On each of the artworks energetic upward brushstrokes travel from earth into the sky to form forces that connect our – inner - world, with the sun and moon (as our goal) in a colorful, insightful and peaceful composition. An aurora of peace is established. "With this collection I express our force to reach our goals," grace explains. She

adds that the vibrant landscape of her home, Aruba, informs this theme; it is a space where land and sea meet, but where those opposing elements combine to create consonance. As usual, the artist will donate 10% of eventual revenues of this exhibition again, this time to the Foundation Hende Muhe den Dificultad meaning Women in Emergency State. This foundation has, since its foundation twenty + years ago, been giving support and shelter to women who find themselves in emergency situations. □



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## Attitude of Gratitude

What makes the difference between a happy person and an unhappy person is not the amount of material wealth they hold. We mostly confuse happiness with having, but it's the attitude of gratitude that truly stands out as the main factor in ones experience of peace and joy. □



Suresh Mirchumal is a spiritual writer. "Well, you can categorize it like that, although I don't call myself one. These thoughts come in effortlessly." His aim is in a way to reach out to whoever gets inspired or has an eye opening event within them that may transcend their current state of consciousness. "Or let's say current emotional state too. If one in a thousand benefits, that is already great." Due to the current world state, lots of struggles and stresses, we seem to lose touch with that inner peace that we long for, Suresh explains. "I wish to ease that through these small articles or tidbits." You will find his tidbits in Aruba Today from now on, like a sunray of the day. If you wish to make use of Suresh his services like meditation or just a talk, please email to: Thedimensionofsilence@gmail.com.

## All the way from the UK



**PALM BEACH —** Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Martin & Jane Grande from UK. This couple has been visiting us for 10 years consecutively!

These great people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Riu Palace Aruba presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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## The fisheries of the 19th century

Episode XLV - (45)

**ORANJESTAD** — The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. From indigenous native people times fishing and sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.



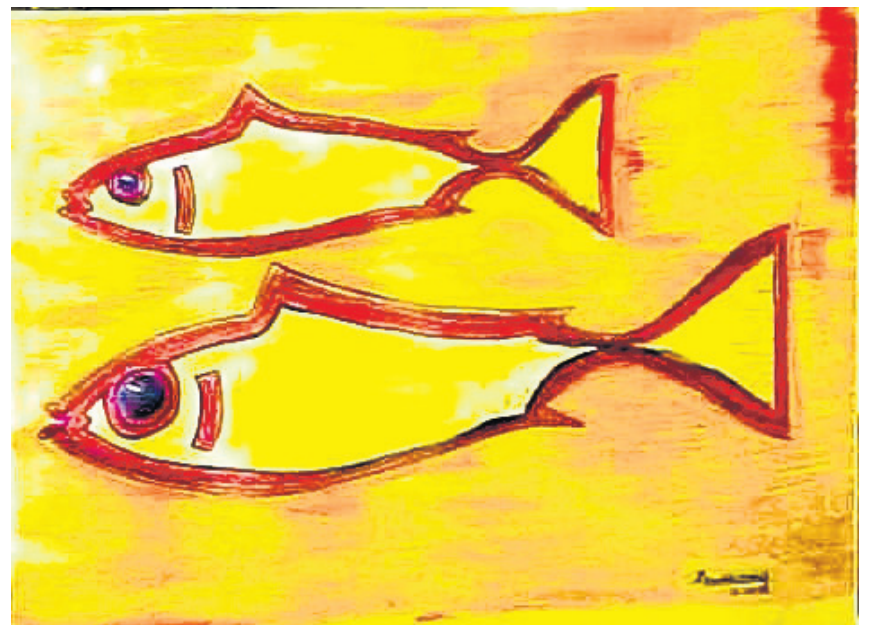
Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waited for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The kingfish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. On Aruba and Curacao there were no facilities to keep a large quantity of fish for some days. Not until 1911 was there the first cold storage but with restricted accommodation on Aruba that was to be put into use. It is

typical of the Arubans that only here were the nets properly cared for. Elsewhere they looked neglected. This sort of work will also have caused some hammocks to be made on Aruba. Our fisheries which in times of old could meet the demand of the island have been unable to do so for a considerable period now. Approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, is where quarter has remained the fishermen's settlement. It was in the middle of the last century that about 45 fishermen lived there. On Horses' Bay about ten fishermen pursue their calling in a small ways by using fish traps called canastas. These were laid in the shallow water. At Cas Paloma there are 4 fishermen, at Santa Cruz 6, in the ancient fishing village of Sabaneta 10, at Cura Cabai 3 and at Sint Nicolaas another 7. Noord had also its old fishing village with some 25 fishermen living close to the beach. The further removed from Lago, the more fishermen there are.

Continued on Page 15





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The Collectables

## The fisheries of the 19th century

Continued from Page 14

These are all Arubans, but besides them there were also about sixty Venezuelans and Colombians who worked in the fisheries here.

The Arubans, together with some Windward Islanders, mainly engage in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. The fishermen carrying on their trade around the Monges Islands and off the opposite coast employ big fishing schooners from 5 to 40 gross registered tons burthen with Venezu-

elan crews. The coastal fishermen supply fresh fish, but the catches of the bigger cutters, though brought to Aruban markets in greater quantity, are less fresh, because they have to be kept in cold storage for some time.

At a rough estimate there are about a hundred small fishing boats.

The fisheries provide a considerable source of income, but they could be much more productive. Each month about 3000 kilos of cold-stored fish is imported here from Las Piedras, Venezuela. Everything caught is for home consumption only. Exports of fish do not take place. □



**Episode XLV - (45)**



# Climate Action Aruba invites you to the park

**ORANJESTAD** — Young people all over the world are walking out of school again on November 29th to ask world leaders to step up and take more climate action. No more promises and plans but concrete emergency measures is what they request. Climate Action Aruba joins the global movement to push governments to bringing change.

Join them for a peaceful get-together at Wilhelminapark from 1-3PM in support of the young school strikers. Show that people of Aruba care. People of all ages are welcome as this not only concerns the younger generation, but all of us. Bring a sign/banner, with your reason(s) for joining us. If you are not able to come, you can also show your support by holding a sign with your intention, mention Aruba on it and post it on #ClimateActionAruba). As individuals we stand alone, together we can make a change.

## New generation's concern

There is a deep and worldwide concern about the future. Humanity is currently causing mass extinction of species and the global climate system is at the brink of a catastrophic crisis. The devastating impacts are already felt by millions of people around the globe. A recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that by the year 2030, if we continue to do business-as-usual, we will likely pass a tipping point and we might no longer be able to stop irreversible climate



breakdown. 2030 is in only 10 years' time, a small window, and it is closing. By the end of the century temperatures will have risen by 4°C if no changes are made, this is by a conservative estimate.

The next UN climate summit will be held in Madrid from 2nd -13th of December. World leaders are getting together again to talk about climate change and the ways to curb the Climate Crisis. The last decades all the talks and plans have yielded little results. Targets are set too low to try and stay under 2° C of warming, and these are not even closely met. Not enough concrete action is being taken.

Young people make up more than half of the global population. This new generation is growing up with the Climate Crisis and will have to deal with it for the rest of their lives. Despite that fact, most are not included in the local and global decision-making processes since they are not allowed to vote yet.

They are the voiceless future of humanity. That is why every Friday young people all over the world are organizing strikes, demanding urgent Climate Action. No more promises but actual and urgent action. They are fighting for their future.



## Their demands are:

- Lower the emission of greenhouse-gasses by retreating from fossil fuels, towards carbon-free energy sources. Follow the Paris Agreement and IPCC report. Lower the carbon-emissions with 50% by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. Stay below 1,5°C warming of global temperatures.
- Protection of biodiversity, of nature
- Unite behind the science and act upon it

## Aruba needs protection

Aruba is under threat too because of Climate Change and a lack of protection of its environment. Multiple plant and animal species are in danger of extinction or have gone extinct already. Warming of the ocean causes more and stronger hurricanes. Ocean-acidification, dying corals, rising sea-levels and flooding are a threat to people and environment. The future is at stake.

Of course we as individuals have to take up responsibility by making changes in our own lives, but Aruba as a country has to do its share too.

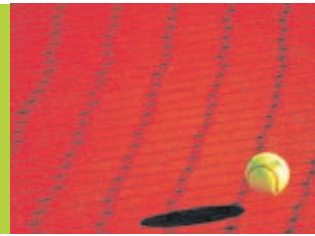
Last September the first Climate Action Aruba was organized to support the young climate strikers worldwide and to express their concerns about Aruba, asking for more concrete Climate Action from our government(s) and businesses. More than 600 people already participated, on different locations all over Aruba. Individuals but also schools, organizations and businesses joined, each with their own reasons why they feel more Climate Action is urgently needed. Friday November 29th Climate Action Aruba is organizing its second action to convince Aruba's leaders to take a more active approach to this crisis. Aruba has a lot of NGO's, organizations and individuals that share a common goal: protecting the environment, our nature and its fauna and flora, all in their own different ways. What if we would come together and unite, find our common ground: the love for Aruba and the concerns we have about climate change and the effects it is having on our way of life, our fauna and flora.

Find more info on #ClimateActionAruba #350.org #FridaysForFuture or #Climatestrike





# SPORTS



Jon Rahm of Spain poses with the Race to Dubai trophy after he won the golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

## Rahm lands \$5M jackpot, emulates Ballesteros with Dubai win

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Jon Rahm was still getting his head around the biggest, gutsiest and richest victory of his career when the name of his golfing idol was dropped into the conversation.

By winning the Race to Dubai title on the European Tour with a one-stroke win at the World Tour Championship, Rahm was reminded, he became only the second Spaniard after the late Seve Ballesteros to finish a season as Europe's No. 1 player.

"Did I? Oh man, I didn't even think about that," an emotional Rahm said, putting his hands to his face after forgetting the narrative he had spoken about all week in the Middle East. Maybe that's what landing a jackpot of \$5 million does to you.

Rahm, the world No. 5, got up and down from a greenside bunker for birdie at the 18th hole to secure the biggest payday of his career Sunday — \$3 million, the richest first prize in golf, for winning the World Tour Championship and a bonus of \$2 million for finishing first in the Race to Dubai.

Continued on Next Page

# GOAL RUSH



## 49ers start 3-game gauntlet with 37-8 win over Packers

San Francisco 49ers running back Jeff Wilson Jr. (30) runs against the Green Bay Packers during the first half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.



**Continued from Previous Page**

"I feel like I'm going to start crying," said Rahm, who pushed Tommy Fleetwood — who also would have become European No. 1 with a win on the Earth Course — into second place.

Rahm, who started the final round tied for the lead with Mike Lorenzo-Vera, birdied five of his first seven holes to power into a six-stroke lead. However, Fleetwood — playing one group ahead — finished as well as Rahm had started, tapping in at No. 18 for a fifth birdie in his last seven holes. It gave him a 7-under 65 and a share of the lead with Rahm, just as Spaniard was putting on the 17th green.

Rahm's birdie putt there came up a few centimeters short so he needed a birdie on the par-5 last for the win. His drive was perfect, his approach leaked right and found the bunker, but he chipped out to 4 feet and rolled in the putt for a 68 as Fleetwood watched in the scorer's tent. Rahm finished on 19 under par overall.

"Fair play to Jon," Fleet-



**Jon Rahm of Spain poses with the two trophies of the Race to Dubai and the DP World Tour Championship after he won the golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.**  
**Associated Press**

wood said. "Cracking birdie down the last when he needed to make it."

When Rahm was on the 16th tee, he said he recalled something Jack Nicklaus said when the 18-time major champion spoke about his British Open win in 1966.

"I heard Jack said once, about the Open Championship in Muirfield when he won, he told himself if you finish 3-4-4, you win," Rahm said. "I told myself, 'Jon, you're on 16, one-shot lead, finish 4-3-4, you win the tournament.' And I

played three great holes.

"I have cruised to a win, luckily for me, before. I have never had to grind it out after losing a lead like that."

Rahm then switched his thoughts to another golfing icon.

"Seve is such an idol for all of us," Rahm said about Ballesteros, a six-time winner of the European Tour's Order of Merit title. "And so are Sergio (Garcia) and Olly (Jose Maria Olazabal) and so many of the great Spanish players. And to think that I'm putting my name there before they do is hard to believe."

"I can't believe some of the things I've accomplished."

Fleetwood, who started the day four shots off the lead, was eight strokes behind after Rahm's flurry of birdies in the opening seven holes. Still, he managed to take Rahm all the way.

"Proud of the way I played the last few holes, proud of my season," said Fleetwood, who won the Nedbank Golf Challenge in South Africa last week to move into contention for a second Race to Dubai title in three years.

Fleetwood finished second in the Race to Dubai standings, with Bernd Wiesberger in third place.

Lorenzo-Vera shot 70 and placed third Sunday. □

## Tyler Duncan rallies to win PGA Tour's RSM Classic

**ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (AP)** — Tyler Duncan made a 12-foot putt on the second hole of a playoff with Webb Simpson on Sunday in the RSM Classic for his first PGA Tour title.

Playing two groups ahead of Simpson in windy conditions on Sea Island's Seaside Course, Duncan birdied three of the last four holes in regulation for a 5-under 65. He two-putted the par-5 15h for a birdie, made a 6-footer on the par-3 17th and a 25-footer on the par-4 18th.

"I'm just so happy to be here playing and to come out here and win is just unbelievable," Duncan said.

Simpson birdied 15 and 16 and closed with two pars, making a 5-footer on 18 to match Duncan at 19-under 263.

"It played really tough all day," Simpson said. "It was blowing it seemed like a solid 20 and gusts here and there, and the pins were tough. They did a good job of setup, but they didn't make it easy for us. It was



**Tyler Duncan holds the trophy after a winning a second hole playoff against Webb Simpson during the final round of the RSM Classic golf tournament in St. Simons Island, Ga., Sunday, Nov., 24, 2019.**  
**Associated Press**

especially hard starting out the way we did, so I played really well given the conditions."

They played the 18th twice in the playoff, matching pars on the first extra hole. "I was definitely nervous, yeah," Duncan said. "I've been working really hard on controlling my emotions and breathing and all that

stuff and it paid off down the stretch here, especially this playoff. I was just able to keep calm and trust what I was doing."

Simpson has four top-seven finishes in eight starts in the event.

"I felt like it was going to go my way, but that's what great players do, they birdie the last two holes like

he did," Simpson said. "So, tough to finish that way, but all in all, a great week."

The 30-year-old Duncan regained his PGA Tour card with a 12th-place finish in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals after finishing 163rd in the FedEx Cup standings. He shot a 61 on Friday, then made 18 pars in a 70 on Saturday that left him four strokes behind third-round leader Brendon Todd.

"I knew it was going to be a tough day out here," Duncan said. "It was colder, the wind picked up and I was just trying to do the best I could, fight until the end. I hit one of the best 4-irons I've ever hit on 17 6 feet up the hill and you guys saw the probably 30-footer I made here on 18 just to get to a playoff."

He earned his first spots in the Masters, PGA Championship and Tournament of Champions in Hawaii.

"Just so many different things that I'm very, very excited for," Duncan said.

Sebastian Munoz was a stroke back after a 68. The

Colombian won the Sanderson Farms Championship in Mississippi in September for his first PGA Tour title.

"First maybe eight holes I was a little tight," Munoz said. "I was too careful with my speed. Then, I just kind of let it go and made a couple more putts and hit better shots and it was all good. I gave myself a chance on 18. It didn't happen this time, but it already did this year, so I'm happy." Todd, seeking his third straight PGA Tour victory, was fourth at 16 under after a 72. He took a two-stroke lead into the final round.

"I was definitely tired on the back nine," Todd said. "With no momentum going, no birdies through 14 holes, it just seemed like I couldn't summon the energy to make some birdies."

"I'm really appreciative of the last two wins that I just had in Bermuda and Mexico. Had another opportunity this week, but it didn't go my way. Just trying to keep getting in contention and closing out." □



# Seahawks remain unbeaten on road, win at Philadelphia

By The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** —

Rashaad Penny ran for a career-best 129 yards, including a 58-yard touchdown, Russell Wilson threw one TD pass and the Seattle Seahawks beat the Philadelphia Eagles 17-9 Sunday.

Missing their top three wide receivers, leading rusher and two Pro Bowl offensive linemen, the Eagles (5-6) couldn't do much on offense and hurt themselves with three turnovers inside Seattle territory and another near midfield.

The Seahawks (9-2) remain undefeated on the road in six games.

The Eagles didn't have wideouts DeSean Jackson, Alshon Jeffery and Nelson Agholor, running back Jordan Howard and right tackle Lane Johnson from the start. Right guard Brandon Brooks left in the first quarter. First-round pick Andre Dillard made his first career start at right tackle after playing the left side all season and was benched at halftime.

The Seahawks were without star defensive end Jadeveon Clowney.

Philadelphia's defense did its best to keep it close, sacking Wilson six times.

But Carson Wentz struggled again and the offense was awful. Wentz was 33 of 45 for 256 yards, one TD, two interceptions and lost two fumbles, including one on a handoff exchange.

Wilson was 13 of 25 for 200 yards, one TD and one pick.

**SAINTS 34, PANTHERS 31**

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Wil Lutz kicked a 33-yard field goal as time expired, and the Saints took a four-game lead in the NFC South with five games left.

Drew Brees completed 30 of 39 passes for 311 yards and three touchdowns, and led New Orleans from its 14-yard line with 1:51 left to the Carolina 15 with 3 seconds remaining to set up the winning kick. That capped a contest filled with late momentum shifts and critical errors — none bigger than Carolina kicker Joey Slye's missed field goal from 28 yards with 2 min-



Seattle Seahawks' Rashaad Penny (20) runs for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

utes left.

New Orleans scored on the game's opening possession and led until 9:23 remained in the fourth quarter, when D.J. Moore reached up with his right hand to corral a fourth-and-goal pass in the back of the end zone to tie it at 31.

Soon after, Panthers safety Eric Reid stuffed Alvin Kamara on a run to the right side on fourth-and-1 from the New Orleans 45. That set up a dramatic sequence in which Carolina coach Ron Rivera successfully challenged officials' decision not to call pass interference on a third-down incomplete pass, setting up a first-and-goal at the 3 with 2:21 to go.

Carolina squandered its opportunity, however, after Christian McCaffrey's run was stuffed and Kyle Allen threw incomplete on second down and was sacked on third down by Marcus Davenport, setting up the end of a difficult day for Slye, who'd also missed two extra-point kicks.

Michael Thomas had 10 catches for 101 yards and a touchdown for New Orleans (9-2), including receptions of 14 and 24 yards on the winning drive.

Allen passed for 256 yards and three TDs for Carolina (5-6), which saw its playoff

hopes pushed to the brink. McCaffrey had 133 yards and two touchdowns from scrimmage on a balance of runs and receptions.

**PATRIOTS 13, COWBOYS 9**

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)** — The Patriots held the Cowboys' top-ranked offense without a TD for the first time this season as New England got its 18th straight regular-season victory at home.

Dallas (6-5) had a chance to take the lead late. But facing fourth-and-11 on its 25 with 1:50 left, Dak Prescott's 20-yard apparent completion to Amari Cooper was nullified after an official review.

The Patriots (10-1), who struggled to move the ball in their win over Philadelphia last week, played without two key receivers after Mohamed Sanu and Phillip Dorsett were ruled out with injuries. Tom Brady made the most of what he had, tossing a first-quarter touchdown pass to rookie N'Keal Harry and completing a 32-yard pass to rookie Jakobi Meyers.

Brady finished 17 of 37 for 190 yards. Julian Edelman caught eight passes for 93 yards.

Dallas struggled to move the ball for most of the game. Ezekiel Elliott rushed 21 times for 86 yards, but the

Cowboys were 2 of 13 on third down.

**49ERS 37, PACKERS 8**

**SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)** — Jimmy Garoppolo threw

two long touchdown passes and the San Francisco 49ers routed Green Bay.

Garoppolo connected on a 42-yard touchdown strike to Deebo Samuel in the second quarter and a 61-yarder to George Kittle in the third to get San Francisco (10-1) off to a resounding start to a grueling three-game stretch.

Following the game against the first-place Packers (8-3), the Niners will travel to Baltimore (8-2) and New Orleans (9-2) the next two weeks in a stretch that will go a long way to determining whether San Francisco will be able to hold off Seattle (9-2) in a tight NFC West race.

Rodgers lost a fumble on the opening drive one of the five sacks he took and failed to convert a single third down on 13 tries before getting pulled late in the fourth quarter. He finished 20 for 33 for 104 yards and Green Bay averaged an anemic 1.7 yards per pass play when he was in the game.

Garoppolo put it away with the two long touchdowns,

part of a day when he went 14 for 20 for 253 yards and most importantly committed no turnovers. He was helped by the return of Kittle, who had six catches for 129 yards in his first game back after missing the past two contests with injuries to his knee and ankle.

**TITANS 42, JAGUARS 20**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — The Titans scored four

touchdowns over six offensive plays in the third quarter for their second straight victory to keep themselves firmly in the AFC playoff hunt.

Ryan Tannehill ran for two TDs and threw two TDs to improve to 4-1 as Tennessee's starter. Derrick Henry ran for two TDs just 16 seconds apart, and rookie receiver A.J. Brown capped the scoring spurt with a 65-yard TD catch that made it 35-3 with 6:57 left in the third quarter.

The Titans (6-5) are tied with Indianapolis and Oakland just outside the AFC's final wild-card spot; those are their next two opponents, both on the road.

Jacksonville (4-7) lost its third straight, the past two since Nick Foles returned to the lineup.

The Jaguars had nine sacks in beating the Titans 20-7 in September with Marcus Mariota at quarterback for Tennessee. They sacked Tannehill only once, though they forced a pair of fumbles by Tennessee. Ranked 29th in the NFL against the run, the Jaguars gave up 219 yards as the Titans had a 471-369 edge in total offense. Leonard Fournette had a pair of 1-yard TD runs and finished with 97 yards.

**JETS 34, RAIDERS 3**

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)** — Sam Darnold threw two

touchdown passes and ran for another score for the Jets' first three-game winning streak in over two years.

Brian Poole returned an interception 15 yards for a TD and the rest of the Jets defense made things miserable for Derek Carr, who was pulled by coach Jon Gruden with just under two minutes left in the third quarter. □



# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!*



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit [www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com](http://www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com) or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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For reservations visit [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba

## Girgensons, Eichel lead Sabres over Panthers, 5-2

By PAUL GEREFFI  
Associated Press

**SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)** — Zemgus Girgensons and Linus Ullmark ended the Buffalo Sabres' three-game losing streak.

Girgensons scored twice, Ullmark made 43 saves and the Sabres beat the Florida Panthers 5-2 on Sunday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

"We did a lot of good things tonight and were rewarded with a 'W,'" said Jack Eichel, who had a goal and two assists. "We did a good job of finding a way to get that next goal."

Victor Olofsson and Jeff Skinner also scored.

"I thought (Ullmark) played an outstanding game today staying on the initial shots," Sabres coach Ralph Krueger said. "He was the king of the first shots tonight. We're really, really happy with his performance."

Brett Connolly and Noel Acciari scored for the Pan-



**Buffalo Sabres center Zemgus Girgensons (28) scores a goal against Florida Panthers goaltender Sam Montembeault during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Sunrise, Fla.**

Associated Press

thers, and Samuel Montembeault stopped 20 shots. The Panthers have lost two straight after winning their previous three, losing 4-2 to the Carolina Hurricanes on Saturday night. They have lost consecutive games in regulation for the first time this season.

"All of a sudden you've got a tough weekend," coach Joel Quenneville said. "Let's

get back to the drawing board and tighten things up and do things the right way." Connolly's power-play goal — on a shot from above the left circle — cut it to 4-2 at 3:08 of the third, but Girgensons countered with his second goal with 6:35 to go. Girgensons was able to push the puck into the corner of the net.

"I just took it to the net, shot

it once and it went in," Girgensons said. Connolly has five goals in his past five games, but the Panthers came away without a point in back-to-back games.

"I think we're going to have to go through something like that," Connolly said. "Every team is going to go through it. It's just a matter of how we respond."

Eichel made it 3-0 at 3:42 of the second on a shot from the right circle that got by the screened Montembeault. Eichel has six goals and four assists in a five-game points streak.

The Panthers closed to 3-1 midway through the second on Acciari's shot from the low slot.

Olofsson responded, taking a cross-ice pass from San Reinhart to the left circle and scoring with 5:19 left in the second.

"We definitely managed the game in a way we'd like to see, finishing on opportunities, creating oppor-

tunities, and managing the lead right through," Krueger said.

**OILERS 4, COYOTES 3, SO GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — Connor McDavid scored the only goal of the shootout and Pacific Division-leading Edmonton beat second-place Arizona.

Mikko Koskinen stopped Vinnie Hinostroza on Arizona's last shootout attempt and finished with 26 saves. James Neal, Alex Chiasson and Markus Granlund scored in regulation time for the Oilers. McDavid extended his points streak to 11 games with his 29th assist of the season, while Leon Draisatl got his NHL-leading 32nd assist. Hinostroza, Carl Soderberg and Christian Fischer scored for Arizona.

**HURRICANES 2, RED WINGS 0**

**DETROIT (AP)** — James Reimer made 19 saves for his 22nd career shutout in Carolina's victory over Detroit. □



# Luka Doncic scores 41 points, Mavs rout Rockets 137-123

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Luka Doncic scored 41 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. added a season-high 31 and the Dallas Mavericks never trailed in a 137-123 victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

The Mavericks scored 45 points in the first quarter and were up 78-60 at half-time. Hardaway had 19 in the half, Doncic 17 and Kristaps Porzingis 15.

The Mavericks has won five straight, scoring at least 137 in the last three. Houston has lost three straight after winning eight in a row.

James Harden had 32 points for Houston but was just 2 of 15 on 3-pointers in a game where the Rockets made 10 of 44 3-point attempts.

## CLIPPERS 134, PELICANS 109

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Montrezl Harrell tied a career-high with 34 points and had 12 rebounds, Kawhi Leonard added 26 points and Los Angeles beat New Orleans for its fifth straight victory.

Lou Williams added 19 points and Paul George had 18. The Clippers had 16 3-pointers with George making six.

Brandon Ingram, one of three Lakers players involved in the Anthony Davis trade, led New Orleans with 24 points and eight rebounds in his first game back at Staples Center. Jrue Holiday scored 18 points, and E'Twaun Moore had 17.

## NETS 103, KNICKS 101

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Spencer Dinwiddie scored 30 points in another strong start in place of the injured Kyrie Irving and Brooklyn beat New York for its season-high third straight victory.

Irving continues to rest an injured right shoulder, and Dinwiddie is making sure they get by without him, scoring 20 or more points in a career-best five straight games after stepping into the starting lineup. He was 13 of 14 from the foul line, where the Nets had a whopping 27-9 advantage



Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic (77) shoots as Houston Rockets' Austin Rivers (25) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

in makes.

Jarrett Allen had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets. Marcus Morris scored 26 points for the Knicks.

## NUGGETS 116, SUNS 104

**DENVER (AP)** — Paul Millsap scored 23 points and Jamal Murray and Will Barton had 22 apiece in Denver's victory over Phoenix.

Nikola Jokic had just eight points, but grabbed 13 rebounds to help Denver win its fifth in a row.

The Nuggets held Phoe-

nix guard Devin Booker to a season-low 12 points on 5-of-13 shooting. Booker came in averaging 26.2 points in November.

Cheick Diallo led Phoenix with a career-high 22 points. Dario Saric had a career-high 17 rebounds to go with 18 points.

## KINGS 113, WIZARDS 106

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Harrison Barnes matched his season high with 26 points on 7-of-8 shooting, Bojan Bogdanovic had 21 points

and Sacramento beat Washington.

Buddy Hield added 18 points, including a late 3-pointer that put Sacramento's lead at multiple possessions for good, and Richaun Holmes had 16 points and 10 rebounds. The Kings won for the seventh time in 10 games to improve to 7-8.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 20 points, ending his string of 30 or more at a career-best five games. □

# Celtics team doctor says Walker didn't suffer serious injury

By **KEN POWTAK**  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Celtics guard Kemba Walker wasn't seriously injured during a scary collision with a teammate last week that led to him being taken from the court on a stretcher, Boston's team doctor said Monday, but Walker will be kept out of the lineup until he goes through a full practice.

Walker was on the bench for Monday night's game against the Sacramento Kings, the team's first game since the injury.

Walker collided with teammate Semi Ojeleye's abdominal area head-first and went down to the court in a heap against the Denver Nuggets on Friday night.

A brace was placed around his neck and he was



Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker, left, is defended by Denver Nuggets guard Gary Harris and center Nikola Jokic, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, in Denver.

Associated Press

strapped to a backboard before being placed onto a gurney and wheeled off the court.

"It looked like it was going to be a very serious injury, but thankfully it turned out

not to be a very a serious injury," team physician Dr. Tony Schena told reporters Monday.

Schena said Walker had "numbness and tingling in his hands" immediately af-

ter the collision, which is why trainers were so cautious with him.

Walker had X-rays at the arena Friday night that came back negative, and more imaging tests were done at a trauma center that also showed no major injuries, Schena said.

Walker flew home with Saturday wearing a soft neck brace. Schena said he had the spinal X-ray reviewed after Walker arrived and it showed "no symptoms" and Walker was "feeling very well."

The medical staff decided that even though he had "no concussion symptoms, he went through protocol anyway," Schena said.

The physician said Walker went through a "full cognitive review" Saturday and Sunday. He said Walker "passed the cognitive test

and also had a light workout and passed it again after that." The team sent him to specialist at a hospital that's not affiliated directly with the team for another spinal exam, and reviews of the X-rays and concussion test.

Walker is expected to go through a full workout on Tuesday.

"He feels well, no symptoms," Schena said. "(We'll) get him to a full practice and progress from there."

Walker is averaging a team-leading 21.1 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 4.7 assists in his first season with Boston.

Earlier this month, the Celtics lost Gordon Hayward to a fractured left hand. He suffered the injury when he collided with LaMarcus Aldridge in a Nov. 9 game against San Antonio. □



# Nadal, grieving Bautista Agut lead Spain to Davis Cup title

**MADRID (AP)** — Rafael Nadal gave all he had on the Caja Mágica center court in Madrid.

The top-ranked Spanish star even admitted he risked getting injured by playing eight matches — five singles, three doubles — in six days at the Davis Cup Finals, the new World Cup of men's team tennis.

Nadal won all his matches, leading Spain to its sixth Davis Cup with a victory over first-time finalist Canada on Sunday.

But in Nadal's opinion, the only hero for Spain was grieving teammate Roberto Bautista Agut. He sent Spain on its way to victory by winning the first singles match on Sunday, three days after the death of his father.

"I've won the eight matches but the person who was vital in this Davis Cup was Roberto," Nadal said. "For me, what he did was something almost (super) human. I don't know how to explain it. It will be an example for the rest of my life. He had to leave, then his dad died, then he came back and practiced with us yesterday, and today he was ready again to play at a very high level. It was something incredible."

Before Nadal defeated Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (7) to clinch the title — Spain's first since also winning at home in 2011 — Bautista Agut had given Spain a 1-0 lead by beating Félix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (3), 6-3. Bautista Agut pointed his finger to the sky after winning the final point in his



Spain's Rafael Nadal, foreground, takes a selfie with fellow players and team staff posing with the trophy after Spain defeated Canada 2-0 to win the Davis Cup final in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

match, and was in tears while speaking briefly to the crowd, which chanted his name.

"It was an amazing feeling on the court today," said Bautista Agut, who was the Spanish player lifting the cup in the title celebrations. Bautista Agut's father died on Thursday — a day after his son had defeated Nikola Mektić of Croatia — with his health deteriorating quickly after an illness that stemmed from a 2016 accident.

It was Nadal who had tears in his eyes when Bautista Agut thanked him for his efforts during the tournament.

"You gave us goosebumps all week, especially today," Bautista Agut said. "Thank you. I'm sure that next year

you will do it again."

The 31-year-old Bautista Agut, No. 9 in the world, played as teammates Pablo Carreño Busta and Marcel Granollers nursed injuries entering the final.

"I had the opportunity to play today because all the team and all the players did an unbelievable effort since the first day," Bautista Agut said.

Nadal considered himself lucky to be able to play all matches.

"It's true that I held up, but we know that playing so many matches in this (hard court) surface is risky for me, something can happen at any time," Nadal said.

"That's how it's been in the past, but luckily I held up." Spain's Marcel Granollers and Feliciano López had

been scheduled to face Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil in the now canceled doubles, although Nadal was likely to play if the title had been at stake. Nadal played in the decisive doubles on Friday and Saturday.

Voted the tournament's best player, Nadal sealed the title with his 29th straight Davis Cup singles win, igniting the home crowd's celebrations. Tournament organizer and Barcelona soccer star Gerard Piqué, his wife Shakira — who performed in the closing ceremony — and Spanish King Felipe VI were among those celebrating Spain's triumph.

Spain's other Davis Cup titles were in 2000, '04, '08, '09 and '11.

Canada was seeking its first

Davis Cup title since debuting in the competition in 1913.

"I feel like we've really come really far as a team, as a nation," the 20-year-old Shapovalov said. "Definitely we're super proud. Obviously it sucks, sucks losing in the finals. But I'm super proud of everyone. We've put in 120% every single day. It's amazing how far we've been able to come." The Canadians eliminated Italy and the United States in the group stage, and Australia and Russia in the knockout rounds.

The 19-year-old Auger-Aliassime lost to Bautista Agut while making his debut in this year's tournament. He was coming off an ankle injury that had seen him sidelined through the group stage and the quarterfinals and semifinals.

Canada came to Madrid without Milos Raonic because of a back injury. Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil were the only players who had competed until Sunday.

Spain beat Russia and Croatia in the group stage, and Argentina and Britain in the knockout rounds.

The new Davis Cup Finals is the result of a 25-year partnership between the International Tennis Federation and the Kosmos group co-founded by Piqué. For the first time, 18 nations played in the same venue in a single week, instead of head-to-head matches that used to take place over four weekends throughout the year. The tournament returns to Madrid next year. □

## Austrian Olympic judo champ denies sexual assault of pupils

**VIENNA (AP)** — Two-time Olympic judo champion Peter Seisenbacher of Austria has denied the alleged sexual assault of two young girls he was coaching in the early 2000s.

At the start of his trial on Monday, Seisenbacher said: "I am not guilty."

According to state prosecutors, the alleged abuse took place in Vienna between 1999 and 2004. The women filed charges

against their former coach in 2013.

"Nothing has happened. Nobody has been attacked," Seisenbacher's attorney, Bernhard Lehofer, said.

Seisenbacher is alleged to have sexually assaulted one of the girls in 1999, when she was 11, and then abused her on multiple occasions until 2002. Also, he allegedly sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl in 2004.

He has also been charged with the attempted assault of a 16-year-old pupil while at a training camp in Croatia in 2001.

If found guilty, the 59-year-old Seisenbacher could face a prison term of up to 10 years.

Initially the trial in a Vienna regional criminal court was set to begin nearly three years ago, but the case was adjourned in December 2016 after Seisen-

bacher failed to show up in court.

His whereabouts were unknown for months before he was arrested in Kyiv in August 2017 but released from detention before Ukrainian authorities decided on an extradition request from Austria.

He was again arrested when he tried to cross the Ukrainian-Polish border with a fake passport three months ago.

In 1988 in Seoul, South Korea, Seisenbacher became the first judoka to win gold at two consecutive Olympics, having also won in 1984 in Los Angeles.

As a coach, he helped Georgia's Lasha Shavdatuashvili win gold in the men's 66-kilogram division at the 2012 London Olympics, and led the Azerbaijan team to two silver medals at the Rio de Janeiro Games four years later. □



## Sports betting approved in New Hampshire for next year

By MICHAEL CASEY  
Associated Press

**CONCORD, N.H. (AP)** — The New Hampshire Lottery Commission approved a sports-betting contract with DraftKings on Monday, paving the way for the state to become the second in New England to allow wagering on games.

The Executive Council, an advisory body to Republican Gov. Chris Sununu, voted Monday to approve the six-year contract to operate sports books in the state with the possibility of two, two-year extensions. DraftKings will pay the lottery 51% of gross gaming revenue for mobile and 50% of gross gaming revenue from retail locations.

The New Hampshire Lottery expects that sports betting on DraftKings mobile app to start in January. Physical locations for sports betting are expected to be up and running by late winter or early spring.

"We moved fast to get this done, and the deal is a win for NH," Sununu tweeted. "We are partnering with a world-class company to provide a first-rate customer service experience. With today's vote, everyone will now be able to bet on @TomBrady and the @Patriots in time for this year's Super Bowl." The move comes several weeks after residents in Berlin, Claremont, Laconia, Manchester and Somersworth voted to permit the operation of physical sports book retail locations in their communities.

A state law allows anyone over 18 to participate in online sports betting. It also allows the state to set up a "sports book" retail location to facilitate sports betting. That will be allowed through as many as 10 physical sports book locations and as many as five online sports books.

"Today's affirmative vote begins a partnership with DraftKings that will offer our players an exciting opportunity to participate in sports betting with a trusted partner," said Charlie McIntyre, New Hampshire Lottery's executive director. "The introduction of sports betting will broaden the appeal of the New Hampshire Lottery and engage new and existing customers, while generating millions of dollars in additional revenue to support education."

Rhode Island is currently the only New England state that has launched sports betting. The one-year anniversary of the launch is Tuesday. Revenue has fallen well short of projections in most states with legalized sports betting.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 paved the way for states to allow sports betting. It is underway in 13 states.

Along with its mobile app, DraftKings will oversee physical sports book operations in New Hampshire. The council also amended the contract for a second company, Intralot, which provides the technology for the lottery. It will provide some sports bets on machines already selling lottery tickets and pay the lottery 19.25% of gross gaming revenue.

Earlier this year, the lottery released a scoring summary for the potential online vendors and retailers looking to offer sports betting in New Hampshire. DraftKings had the top scores in mobile and retail networks. Intralot was the top company for the lottery channel. □



Winnipeg Blue Bombers' Andrew Harris celebrates winning the 107th Grey Cup against the Hamilton Tiger Cats in Calgary, Alberta, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

## Winnipeg Blue Bombers win first Grey Cup title since 1990

**CALGARY, Alberta (AP)** — Andrew Harris made Grey Cup history to help end his hometown Winnipeg Blue Bombers' title drought.

Harris became the first player to be honored as both the Grey Cup MVP and top Canadian, running for 134 yards and a touchdown and catching a scoring pass in the Blue Bombers' 33-12 victory over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Sunday night.

The Blue Bombers won their 10th title and first since 1990, becoming the first third-place team to reach and win the Canadian Football League championship since Edmonton in 2005.

Harris, the 32-year-old Winnipeg native who also won a title with the B.C. Lions in 2011, is the first Canadian to be selected Grey Cup MVP since Russ Jackson of the Ottawa Rough Riders in 1969.

"That sounds good, but the only trophy I want is the big silver one," Harris said. "It's surreal, it's amazing, it's a dream come true. I'm so proud to be a Winnipegger."

With the temperature in the mid-30s with little wind, Har-

ris opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 15-yard run and caught an 18-yard touchdown pass from backup Chris Streveler in the second quarter. Harris finished with six catches for 35 yards.

Harris served a two-game suspension for a positive drug test this season, but still led the CFL in rushing for the third straight season.

"I just wanted to prove it to my teammates and deliver for my teammates," Harris said. "Everything else is whatever. We just wanted to win this game. We've been underdogs (and) counted out all year and even for myself I've been counted out and disrespected. It was a Blue Bomber-style game and that's how we wanted to do it."

Zach Collaros, the former University of Cincinnati quarterback who spent time with Saskatchewan and Toronto this season before landing in Winnipeg in October, completed 17 of 23 passes for 170 yards. Streveler was 3 for 3 for 39 yards.

Justin Medlock tied the Grey Cup record with six field goals and salvaged a

single on his lone miss.

Defensive end Willie Jefferson had three of Winnipeg's six sacks and forced two fumbles.

"To be playing such a big game, the biggest game of the year and to play their best football, is very impressive," Winnipeg coach Mike O'Shea said. "They certainly rose to the occasion and got after it. They should be extremely proud of that fact."

Dane Evans threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Bralon Addison in the third quarter for Hamilton. The Tiger-Cats, a CFL-best 15-3 in the regular season, won their last championship in 1999.

"It hurts real bad. I'm not going to lie," Evans said. "It just sucks, man. Honestly, it is just terrible. Not the way we would have pictured it. Not the way that we wanted it and it's all because of us. We had a great game plan but we just didn't execute."

Hamilton lost Brandon Banks, the speedy receiver honored this week at the league's Most Outstanding Player, to a leg injury in the third quarter. Winnipeg was third in the West at 11-7 in the regular season. □



# Grocery-carrying robots are coming. Do we need them?

By **MATT O'BRIEN**

**AP Technology Writer**

**BOSTON (AP)** — The first car-go-carrying robot marketed directly to consumers is on sale this holiday season. But how many people are ready to ditch their second car to buy a two-wheeled rover that can follow them around like a dog?

Corporate giants like Amazon, FedEx and Ford have already been experimenting with sending delivery robots to doorsteps. Now Piaggio, the Italian company that makes the Vespa scooter, is offering a stylish alternative to those blandly utilitarian machines — albeit one that weighs 50 pounds (23 kilograms) and costs \$3,250.

It's named the Gita (JEE'-tah) after the Italian word for a short, pleasurable excursion — the kind you might take to pick up some lacinato kale and gourmet cheese at the farmers market. Its creators have such trips in mind for the "hands-free carrier" that can hold produce and other objects as it follows its owner down a sidewalk.

"We're trying to get you out into the world and connected to that neighborhood you decided to move to because it was so walkable," said Greg Lynn, CEO of Piaggio's tech-focused subsidiary, Piaggio Fast Forward.

Tech industry analysts are already declaring the Gita as doomed to fail unless it finds a more practical application, such as lugging tools around warehouses, hospitals or factory floors.

"That's a lot of money for what is in effect just a car-



**Piaggio Fast Forward CEO Greg Lynn, center, is followed by his company's Gita carrier robot as he crosses a street on Monday, Nov. 11, in Boston.**

**Associated Press**

go-carrying robot that's going to carry your groceries," said Forrester technology analyst J.P. Gownder.

On a recent November morning, Lynn was hunched over in a Boston waterfront park, pushing a button that triggered a Gita to "see" him with its cameras and sensors. Then came a musical whirring sound as the device — a squarish, bright red bucket with two oversized wheels — rose up and signaled it was ready for a neighborhood stroll.

A young boy in a stroller pointed excitedly. Another pedestrian asked to try it, and playfully shouted "ah!" as it swerved around, keeping in pursuit as she switched directions.

The Gita doesn't require a phone or intrusive people-tracking technology such as facial recognition or GPS.

"It basically just locks onto you and tracks you," said Piaggio Fast Forward's other co-founder, Jeffrey Schnapp.

Other startups like Starship Technologies have a more conventional business plan for their own delivery robots. The company charges a delivery fee starting at \$1.99 if you order its rovers to bring you a Starbucks coffee or a lunch from Panda Express.

So far, the best habitat to find Starship's six-wheelers are relatively confined spaces such as college campuses; the University

of Houston and the University of Wisconsin-Madison rolled them out this fall. The robots, which look like oversized ice chests on wheels, can carry up to 20 pounds (9 kilograms).

"I love them. I think they're so cute!" University of Houston freshman Sadie Garcia said as one of the machines rolled up with a bagel sandwich she'd ordered. She said she was so cold she didn't want to leave her dorm.

Starship co-founder Ahti Heinla said his San Francisco startup once looked at selling the machines directly to consumers, but dropped the idea after realizing it would have to price them at more than \$3,000.

Amazon is experimenting with a similar-looking machine that delivers retail goods in a handful of U.S. neighborhoods. FedEx is testing its own delivery rover in partnership with Pizza Hut, Walmart, Target and Walgreens. Ford has showed off a gangly two-legged robot to carry items to homes. So far, none are as far along as Starship, which has hundreds of its machines already in service.

While Forrester's Gownder isn't impressed with the Gita, he's bullish about delivery robots of the Starship variety because their autonomy will help save labor costs. Gownder said it's more of a question of whether ground-based rovers or aerial delivery drones will prove more successful. The wheeled cargo robots that have already made it out into the wild have significant limitations.

Starship's machines still require plenty of manual supervision to load them with food orders. They rely on remote pilots to troubleshoot navigation problems. Customers also have to check a phone app to tell the vehicle where to go and to unlock the bin once it arrives.

The Gita, meanwhile, might still be impractical for many people. It favors paved environments that are dense enough to have stores in walking distance, but not so dense that the machines get lost in the crowd.

And anyone who is simply looking to pull home groceries without heavy lifting can find durable wagons online for less than \$100. □

## Web inventor has an ambitious plan to take back the net

By **FRANK BAJAK**

**AP Technology Writer**

World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee released an ambitious rule book for online governance — a bill of rights and obligations for the internet — designed to counteract the growing prevalence of such anti-democratic poisons as misinformation, mass surveillance and censorship.

The product of a year's work by the World Wide Web Foundation where Berners-Lee is a founding director, the "Contract for the Web" seeks commitments from governments and industry to make and keep knowledge freely available — a digital policy agenda true to the design vision of the 30-year-old web.

The contract is non-binding,

however. And funders and partners in the endeavor include Google and Facebook, whose data-collecting business models and sensation-rewarding algorithms have been blamed for exacerbating online toxicity.

"We haven't had a fairly complex, fairly complete plan of action for the web going forward," Berners-Lee

said in an interview. "This is the first time we've had a rule book in which responsibility is being shared."

For instance, the contract proposes a framework for protecting online privacy and personal data with clearly defined national laws that give individuals greater control over the data collected about them.

Independent, well-resourced regulators would offer the public effective means for redress. Current laws and institutions don't measure up to that standard.

Amnesty International just released a report charging that Google and Facebook's business models are predicated on the abuse of human rights. □





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## Tiffany is latest jewel for French luxury group LVMH's crown

By **ANGELA CHARLTON** and  
**RACHEL LERMAN**

**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — French luxury group LVMH has agreed to buy New York jeweler Tiffany & Co. for \$16.2 billion, adding a famed star to its portfolio that already boasts Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Bulgari.

LVMH said in a statement Monday it will take over the 182-year old Tiffany and its 300 boutiques worldwide at \$135 a share. The price tag is higher than the \$14.5 billion cash offer LVMH made last month.

Tiffany, known for its delicate jewelry, distinctive blue boxes and an Audrey Hepburn movie, says the deal will ensure its long-term sustainability. The company is trying to transform its brand to appeal to younger and more digital shoppers, and could use an owner with deep pockets to help expand its business.

Tiffany's stock closed Monday up more than 6% in New York, while LVMH rose 2% in Paris.

LVMH, led by billionaire Bernard Arnault, says the deal will strengthen its position in high-end jewelry and in the U.S. market. The purchase will help the French conglomerate compete with Gucci-owner Kering Group and Cartier-owner Richemont SA. With its purchase of Tiffany, LVMH is also making a big bet on China's economy—Tif-



**Sophie Forshaw, left, and Kelly Fenna, second from left, of Liverpool, England, stand in front of Tiffany's flagship store with their purchases, Monday, Nov. 25, 2019 in New York.**

**Associated Press**

fany has been expanding its presence in China with plans to build more stores there.

LVMH already owns 75 brands including Christian Dior, Fendi, and Givenchy as well as watchmaker Tag Heuer. Its flagship brand Louis Vuitton recently opened a handbag workshop in Texas, with President Donald Trump in attendance.

LVMH said both companies' boards approved the deal and hope to finalize the takeover in 2020, subject to the approval of regulators and Tiffany shareholders.

LVMH "knows how to preserve the strength and the identity of its brands, which

is very important because in the luxury sector, beyond the product itself, the image is important," said Aude Latouche, a Paris-based corporate mergers and acquisitions analyst at AL Corporate Advice. "So to be where they are now, LVMH definitely knows not only how to buy a brand, but also how to make it grow and flourish without touching the heart and the strength of the brand."

Tiffany is less of a household name in Europe than it is in the U.S. but enjoys a high-visibility boutique on the Champs-Élysées Avenue — just down the street from Louis Vuitton's flagship store.

In Paris, Arnault is seen as the unelected president of the luxury world. One of Europe's richest men, he's ever-present at VIP events — and especially during the city's Fashion Weeks, where LVMH brands hold a prominent place, and he and his children Delphine and Antoine are often parked in the front row. The Tiffany purchase is seen as confirming his status as the man to beat in the industry, and further distanced LVMH from its rivals.

The offer comes as luxury goods companies have been wrestling with changing habits of shoppers who are increasingly buying online. They're also purchas-

ing secondhand luxury items from places like The RealReal.com.

In addition, luxury companies are facing fears of an economic slowdown in China, a key area of business, while they're already dealing with a slowdown in international tourism in the U.S.

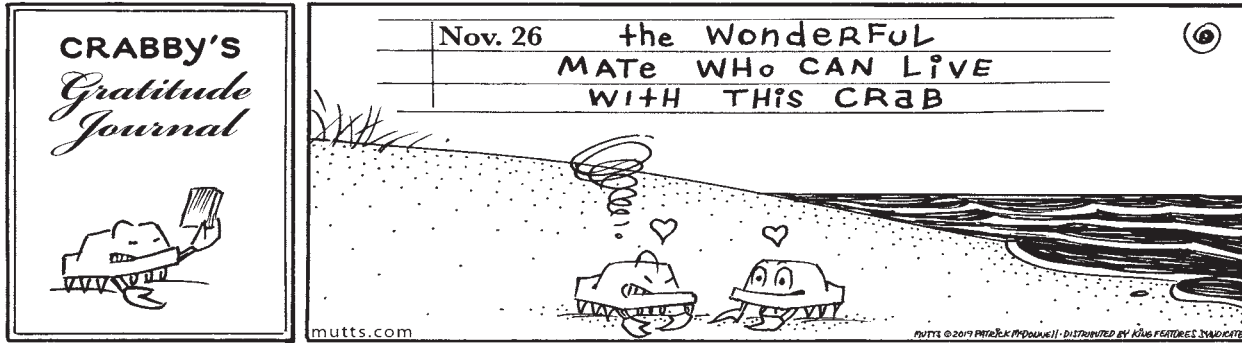
Overall, the global market for personal luxury goods is healthy, reaching a record high of \$286.53 (260 billion euros) in 2018 — a 6% increase from the year before, according to consulting firm Bain & Co. Jewelry in particular has been one of the top luxury growth categories, enjoying 7% sales increase to a little over \$20 billion last year. Luxury sales in the Americas reached \$88 billion (80 billion euro) last year, a growth rate of 5%, according to Bain & Co.

The U.S. luxury market has been helped by a strong economy and overall luxury spending by local consumers. However, a strong dollar has curbed spending by tourists from Asia and other countries.

Overall U.S. luxury sales, excluding jewelry, have fallen 2.7% so far this year compared to a 3.1% increase in overall retail sales, according to MasterCard SpendingPulse, which tracks sales across all types of payments including cash and checks. Jewelry sales, however, have risen 2.6% so far this year. □



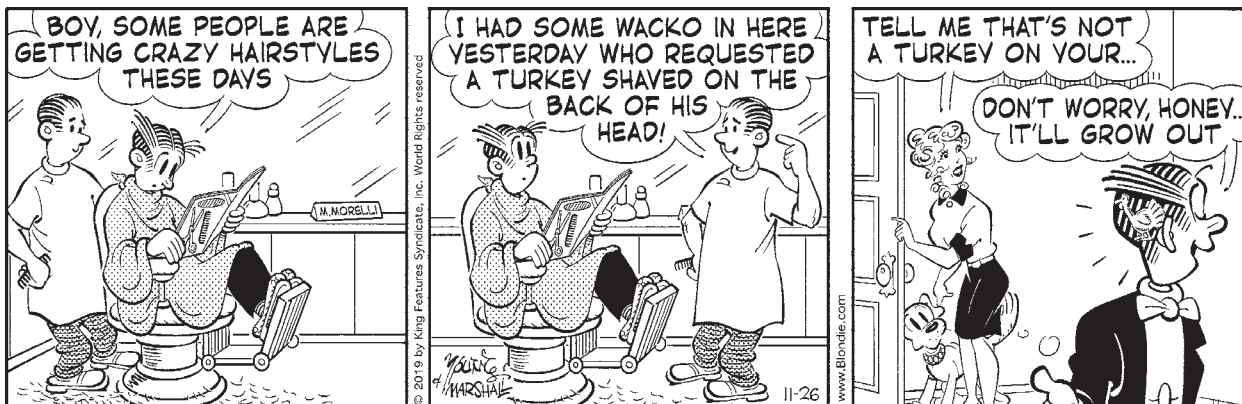
**Mutts**



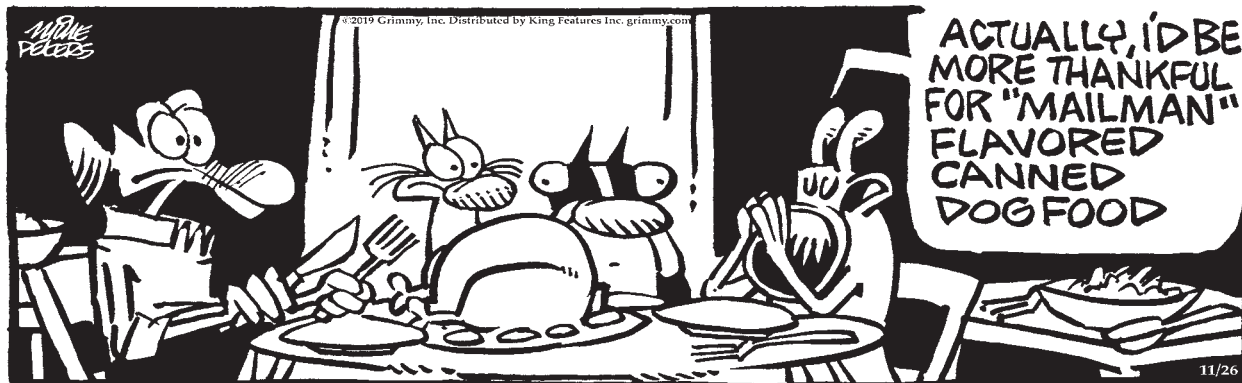
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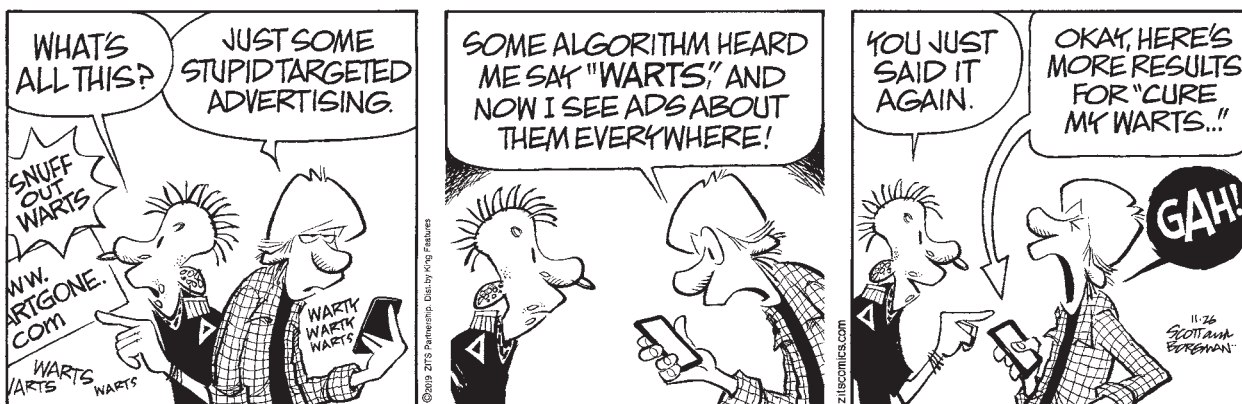
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

				2			4	
7		4	5		3			
		6		1		3	7	
	2						1	
5		1				9		6
	7						3	
	8	3		7		1		
			1		4	8		7
	5			9				

Difficulty Level ★★

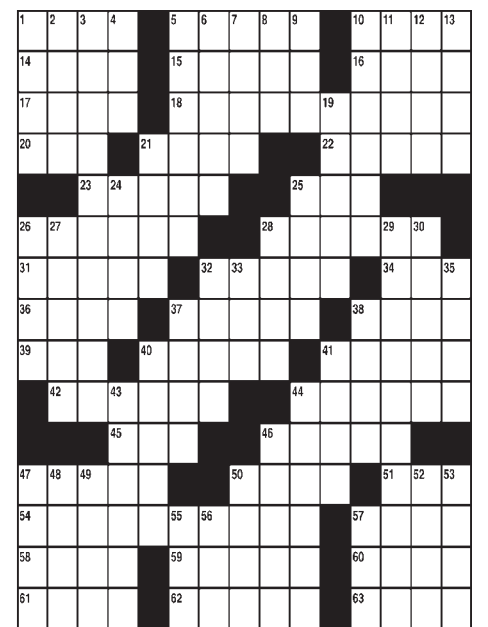
11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	4	9	6	8	1	5	3	7
5	7	6	3	2	9	4	1	8
8	1	3	7	5	4	6	9	2
4	2	5	9	1	8	7	6	3
9	6	7	4	3	2	1	8	5
1	3	8	5	7	6	2	4	9
7	8	4	2	6	3	9	5	1
6	5	1	8	9	7	3	2	4
3	9	2	1	4	5	8	7	6

- ACROSS**
- "I Got You"; Sonny & Cher hit
  - Long narratives
  - Food, slangily
  - Has \_\_\_ in one's bonnet; keeps harping on a subject
  - Look-\_\_\_; twin
  - Prefix for copter or port
  - Student's summons
  - Most populous California city
  - Actress MacGraw
  - Ax handle
  - Windowsill
  - Chris of tennis
  - Brillo competitor
  - Mouthwatering
  - Cry of discovery
  - Make happy
  - Like old poorly wrapped cheese
  - Poor Clare, for one
  - Portion of the brain
  - Date trees
  - Merry-go-round, for one
  - Chat room giggle
  - \_\_\_ over; studies intently
  - Implied, though not spoken
  - Bra purchaser
  - Tropical lizards
  - Dollar bill
  - Smooth & glossy
  - \_\_\_ up for; defended
  - Timber
  - Org. for Eagles & Ravens
  - Preposterous
  - Lady \_\_\_ of the music world
  - Lover of an Irish Rose
  - Tales
  - Like sore muscles
  - Elapse, as time
  - Like a mire
  - Zooms down snowy slopes



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/26/19

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

BARS	UGHS	CHOP
IVIES	PRAM	HAVE
RIVET	POLICEMEN	
DDE	ALE	DOESNT
RACER	GAS	
REBUKE	RESENT	
IRONS	PLANT	OUR
GNAT	ROAMS	TUNA
SIT	PEEPS	HIRES
ESTEEM	POLISH	
WAN	HOWLS	
STRICT	UPA	HOE
LOOSE	ENDS	RAINY
ABUT	ROOK	DANCE
METS	STAY	AGED

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11/26/19

- DOWN**
- "Ali \_\_\_ and the Forty Thieves"
  - Cain's brother

- Opposite of "incredible"
- Sushi bar offering
- Worker's pay
- High up overhead
- Crux of the matter
- Letters before an alias
- Schumer or Rubio: abbr.
- Gouda or mozzarella
- \_\_\_ up; robbed at gunpoint
- Designer Cassini
- Astute
- "Mine eyes have seen the \_\_\_"
- Roll call response
- Do one's civic duty
- Soap lather
- \_\_\_ down the river; betray
- Standoffish
- Shade trees
- Trinket; curio
- Sound portion of a telecast
- Foal's mother
- "\_\_\_ Miss"; univ. west of Tupelo
- Holey fabrics
- Warsaw native
- Marathon
- Black-and-white critter
- \_\_\_ off; provoked
- Demi & Dudley
- Shiny photo
- WA's Puget \_\_\_
- Zest or Dial
- Booming instrument
- Singer Redding
- "Mum's the \_\_\_"
- E's followers
- \_\_\_ down; deposits
- High school building
- \_\_\_ de cologne
- Car fuel



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**Halley Time Travel**

**Dutch Village**

1 BR wk #46

12 weeks remain \$5000

2 BR wk 47

17 weeks remain contract expire

2028 \$5500

**Eagle Resorts and Casino**

2 BR Wk 45 and 46

ground floor \$5500 each

**La Cabana Beach and Casino**

1 BR wk 47 \$4500

4th floor Thursday check in

**Divi Village Resorts**

Studio wk 47 and 48 \$5000

each

building A with 30 weeks remain

**La Cabana Beach and casino**

2 BR wk 48 and 49 \$10,000

each

E- unit ocean front ground floor

**Aruba Divi Phoenix**

2 BR PH wk 49 and 50

building 7 on the 7th floor

32 weeks remain on each

\$24 K each

**Paradise Beach Villas**

1 BR wk # 47 \$4500

3rd floor garden view

**Renaissance Suites**

1 BR wk #48 Harbor V. \$5000

1 BR wk 49 and 50 Pool O.V

3rd floor \$6500 each

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# Failing ice cellars signal changes in Alaska whaling towns

By RACHEL D'ORO

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— For generations, people in Alaska's far-north whaling villages have relied on hand-built ice cellars dug deep into the permafrost to age their subsistence food to perfection and keep it cold throughout the year. Scores of the naturally refrigerated food caches lie beneath these largely Inupiat communities, where many rely on hunting and fishing to feed their families. The ice cellars range from small arctic root cellars to spacious, wood-lined chambers, some topped with sheds.

Now, a growing number of these underground cellars are being rendered unreliable as global warming and other modern factors force changes to an ancient way of life. Some villages are working to adapt as more cellars — some stocked with tons of whale, walrus and other meats — turn up with pooling water and mold.

"I'm worried," said Gordon Brower, a whaling captain who lives in Utqiagvik, the nation's northernmost community, which logged its warmest May through September on record this year. His family has two ice cellars: One is more than 100 years old and used to store at least 2 tons (1.8 metric tons) of frozen bowhead whale meat set aside for community feasts; the other was built in 1955, and is used as the family's private subsistence-food cache. Brower recently asked his son to retrieve some whale meat from one of the cellars, and discovered liquids had pooled in both.

"He came back and said, 'Dad, there's a pool of blood and water at the bottom,'" recalled Brower,



This undated photo in Kaktovik, Alaska, shows installation of a shelter covering the entrance to a new community ice cellar, a type of underground food cache dug into the permafrost to provide natural refrigeration used for generations in far-north communities.

Associated Press

the North Slope Borough's planning and development director. He pulled the community meat outside and has kept it under a tarp because the weather is cold enough now to keep it from spoiling.

"It seems like slight temporary variations in the permafrost — that active layer — is affecting the temperature of our cellar," Brower said.

Residents and researchers say the problem has been building for decades as a warming climate touches multiple facets of life in the far north — thawing permafrost, disruptions in hunting patterns and shorter periods of coastal ice that historically protected coastal communities from powerful storms. Other factors include development and soil conditions.

The changes have in-

creased vulnerability to foodborne illnesses and raised concerns about food security, according to studies by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The group and state health officials say they have so far not heard of anyone getting sick.

There were once at least 50 ice cellars in Point Hope, an Inupiat whaling village built on a triangular spit surrounded by a large inlet and the Chukchi and Arctic oceans. Now, fewer than 20 remain, according to village services supervisor Russell Lane, a whaling captain who has lived his 52 years in the community of 750. The problems with cellars have become more pronounced in the past two decades, he said.

To compensate, Point Hope whaling captains have use of three walk-in freezers that were donated for use by the whaling community. But the much colder freezers do not impart the taste of aged whale meat so favored throughout the region. Lane himself initially stores meat in the traditional ice cellar his wife's family owns, frequently checking it until it reaches the right maturity before he transfers

it to a freezer.

"It's definitely a challenge at this time to be able to feed our people that acquired taste," Lane said. Despite the unprecedented rate of climate change today, however, ice cellars failed in the past, including one account of a cellar developing mold in the early 1900s, according to a study published in 2017 that looked at traditional cellars in Utqiagvik, formerly named Barrow, following reports of flooded and collapsed cellars. The study, funded by the National Science Foundation and George Washington University, found ice cellars don't meet federally recommended temperature standards, but allow the culturally preferred aging to occur.

The study was inconclusive about the cause of ice cellar failures, citing an absence of extensive scientific analysis. Researchers mapped 71 ice cellar locations around town and monitored five functioning cellars from 2005 to 2015, finding little thermal change over that relatively short timeframe. One of those cellars has since failed, however, and

another is starting to collapse, according to one of the study's authors, George Washington University research scientist Kelsey Nyland.

The study concluded that while a changing climate has great potential to affect ice cellars, there are other factors, including soil conditions and urban development. For example, some Utqiagvik residents might inadvertently warm the soil beneath their cellars by putting sheds on top of the entrances to keep them free of snow, Nyland said.

"Climate change, air temperatures, all these physical changes are affecting them," she said. "But also, a lot of it has to do with development and modern life in an arctic setting."

To adapt to the new environment, the village of Kaktovik, on the Beaufort Sea coast, took ambitious steps after it lost all but one family's cellar to flooding.

In 2013, the village launched a project to build a community ice cellar incorporating traditional designs with contemporary technology used in Alaska's North Slope oil fields — thermosyphons, off-grid tube-like refrigeration devices that cool the ground by transferring heat outside.

The hand-excavated cellar was ready for use in 2017, but it has yet to be filled. Whaling captains want to expand it first, according to whaling captain George Kaleak Sr., who represents Kaktovik on the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. Temperature sensors inside the cellar show it's working as intended, Kaleak said. He expects the expansion to begin as early as next spring.

In the meantime, subsistence foods are stored in three 40-foot (12-meter) village freezer vans. But that equipment is no substitute for imparting that aged taste so prized in the region, Kaleak noted. He hopes the new cellar mimics that process.

"There's nothing that tastes better than ice cellar food," he said. □



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This Oct. 21, 2019 file photo shows TV personality Ree Drummond posing for a portrait to promote her new cookbook "The Pioneer Woman Cooks: The New Frontier: 112 Fantastic Favorites for Everyday Eating."

Associated Press

## 'Pioneer woman' sticks to her groove with new cookbook

By GINA ABDY  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ree Drummond — known for her Food Network cooking show, "The Pioneer Woman" — won't follow diet trends to sell cookbooks. "I have found that I have to be authentic to me, otherwise it won't work. My interest will fizzle. I stay most passionate when it's something that's really going on in my life," she told The Associated Press.

For instance, Drummond tried the Keto diet this year, but didn't stick with it. Still, she does offer Keto-like recipes in her latest cookbook, "The Pioneer Woman Cooks: The New Frontier," to reflect public interest in the diet.

"It was a little too hardcore for me to sustain, but that's what was behind the handful of lower-carb recipes in the cookbook. Just on those days or weeks when you want to kind of make slightly smarter choices, those are the recipes that reflect that," she said.

"But I call them lower carb because I'm not making any Keto gods happy."

Drummond's cooking is all about making your stomach happy. She's generally known for hearty fare, along with rich desserts.

Surprisingly, though, bread is not her strong suit. "I can kind of muddle through ... But I just don't have the artistry to make a really great loaf of bread. So that's going to be my lifetime goal," she said.

Her cookbook includes step-by-step visual guides with her recipes. "It's the style that I used when I first started food blogging back in 2007. I just decided to take pictures of the steps as I cooked," Drummond said. "I had no idea if anybody would be interested, but I posted them and the people who read it at the time said, 'Hey, do another one.' And so that became my style."

Her brand continues to grow each year. She started as a stay-at-home married mom to four children on her ranch in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, blogging about motherhood and simple recipes. Now she has a hit show, a collection of cookbooks and children's books, and a houseware line at Walmart. She was even featured on the cover of People magazine. "I blogged on a whim, but I blogged about things that made me tick. Like, my kids. I wrote funny stories about raising them in the country," she said. □



First lady Melania Trump looks over the 2019 White House Christmas tree as it is delivered to the White House in Washington, Monday, Nov. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

## Melania Trump receives official White House Christmas tree

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Melania Trump opened the holiday season in the nation's capital Monday by accepting delivery of the official White House Christmas tree.

Members of the U.S. Marine Band played "O Christmas Tree" as a pair of horses named Cash and Ben trotted up the White House driveway pulling a green carriage that carried an 18 ½-foot (5.49 meter) Douglas fir. The towering tree will become the centerpiece of Christmas in the White House Blue Room.

The first lady appeared moments later, escorted by a military aide, and smiled, waved and chatted up the top-hatted men holding tight to the reins. She walked around the carriage and paused to look at the tree before posing for photos with the Pennsylvania farmer who donated it.

Mrs. Trump wished everyone a "Merry Christmas" before going back inside the White House.

Delivered three days before Thanksgiving, the fir

was harvested from Mahantongo Valley Farms in Pitman, Pennsylvania. Owner Larry Snyder earned the honor of presenting the White House a tree from his farm after winning an annual contest held by the National Christmas Tree Association.

The White House chief usher and grounds superintendent picked the tree during an October visit to Snyder's farm. A massive chandelier that hangs in the oval-shaped Blue Room is removed to accommodate the tree, which is trimmed and anchored to the ceiling for safety and stability.

The tree's delivery marks the start of a flurry of holiday season activity at the White House.

President Donald Trump is scheduled Tuesday to participate in another seasonal ritual when he issues a presidential pardon to the National Thanksgiving Turkey before he flies to Florida to spend the holiday with his family at his Palm Beach home. The White House is sponsoring an online contest to help decide which

of two gobblers - 45-pound (20.41 kilogram) "Bread" or 47-pound (21.32-kilogram) "Butter" - should be spared.

Meanwhile, during Trump's absence from Washington, an army of volunteer decorators, florists and others will fly in from around the country after Thanksgiving to help decorate the 132-room executive mansion for Christmas. Thousands of tourists will stream through the building in December. Wreaths are already in place on exterior windows on the South Portico of the White House.

Christmas planning starts several months out.

In late July, Mrs. Trump tweeted photos of herself in the Map Room looking over a table covered with fabric swatches, floral samples and Christmas photos. "#Christmas planning has begun in the East Wing at the @WhiteHouse," she wrote, referencing the wing of the White House where her office and staff are based. "I'm looking forward to sharing our final vision for this unique tradition in the coming months." □



# 'Frozen 2' heats up box office with \$127M opening weekend

By **JAKE COYLE**  
AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Six years after "Frozen" kicked up a pop-culture blizzard, the sequel to Elsa, Anna and Olaf's adventures snowed-in the box office with an estimated \$127 million debut domestically and \$350.2 million worldwide, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The opening for the Walt Disney Co.'s "Frozen 2" bur-

ied several records. It's the highest-grossing debut ever for any animated film globally. It marks a new high in the U.S. and Canada for an animated movie released outside of the summer season. And it's the largest opening for any Walt Disney Animation Studios release.

Disney opted for the week ahead of Thanksgiving to open "Frozen 2," meaning it will get a significant second

week bump from kids out of school. The first "Frozen" opened over Thanksgiving, earning \$93 million in five days and \$67 million for the three-day weekend.

The original, though, quickly grew into a sensation, remaining in the top 10 at the box office for 17 weeks and ultimately grossing \$1.27 billion. Propelled in part by the hit song "Let it Go," "Frozen" begat a flurry of merchandizing, untold num-

rating. Crowds were largely female (59%) but not extremely so. And audiences came out in larger numbers than analysts forecast, especially overseas.

The film brings back much of the talent behind the 2013 original, including the voices of Idina Menzel (Elsa), Kristen Bell (Anna) and Josh Gad (Olaf). Also returning are songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, though

has grossed \$103.8 million worldwide thus far. Starring Christian Bale and Matt Damon, the movie has also joined this season's sped-up Oscar race. (The Academy Awards will be held Feb. 9 this year.)

Marielle Heller's Mister Rogers drama "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," starring Tom Hanks and Matthew Rhys, is also in the Oscar mix. It opened in third with \$13.5 million. That



This image released by Disney shows Elsa, voiced by Idina Menzel, from left, Anna, voiced by Kristen Bell, Kristoff, voiced by Jonathan Groff and Sven in a scene from the animated film, "Frozen 2." Associated Press

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**PH** **VIP** MON-FRI 6:00 8:30  
SAT-SUN 3:30 6:00 8:30

**CXC** MON-FRI 4:10 6:35 9:00  
SAT-SUN 1:45 4:10 6:35 9:00

**PBP** MON-THU 5:25 7:50  
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**FRI** 5:05 7:30 10:00  
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CHADWICK BOSEMAN | J.K. SIMMONS

**21 BRIDGES**

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 8:20  
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SAT 3:40 6:00 8:20 10:40  
SUN 3:40 6:00 8:20

**VIP** MON-FRI 5:00 7:15 9:30  
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KRITI KHARBANDA | JOHN ABRAHAM

**RAGLAND**

**PBP** MON-SUN 8:50

KRISTEN STEWART | NAOMI SCOTT

**CHARLIE'S ANGELS**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PH** MON-THU & SUN 8:30  
FRI-SAT 8:30 11:10

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:10 6:45 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20

CHRISTIAN BALE | MATT DAMON

**FORD v FERRARI**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PH** MON-FRI 7:50  
SAT-SUN 4:35 7:50

**PBP** MON-SUN 8:40

EMILIA CLARKE | HENRY GOLDING

**Last Christmas**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG-13**

**PH** MON-FRI 6:45  
SAT-SUN 1:55 4:20 6:45

**PBP** **VIP** MON-FRI 4:50 7:10 9:30  
SAT-SUN 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30

JOHN CENA | KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY

**PLAYING WITH FIRE**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG**

**PH** MON-FRI 6:10  
SAT-SUN 3:50 6:10

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:30 6:40  
SAT-SUN 2:20 4:30 6:40

LINDA HAMILTON | ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

**TERMINATOR DARK FATE**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **R**

**PH** MON-SUN 9:10

**PBP** MON-FRI 3:50 6:35 9:30  
SAT-SUN 1:05 3:50 6:35 9:30

ANGELINA JOLIE | ELLE FANNING

**Disney MALEFICENT MISTRESS OF EVIL**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG**

**PBP** MON-FRI 3:40 6:10  
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bers of Elsa dresses and a Broadway musical. It won two Academy Awards, for best animated feature and original song.

Matching that total gross won't be easy sledding, but "Frozen 2" has a head start. Cathleen Taff, distribution chief for Disney, granted there's a "high bar" set by "Frozen," but she's confident of the film's enormous appeal.

"We can't open to a number this big without everybody coming out to see it," said Taff. "We're looking forward to a good run through the holidays given kids are going to start getting out of school this next week."

Reviews and audience reaction have been good for "Frozen 2," but not as strong as they were for the original. The CinemaScore was A- for "Frozen 2," whereas "Frozen" yielded an A+. Critics were also a little less taken with the sequel: 75% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, compared to 90% for the original.

But scores were still very high, including a 93% Rotten Tomatoes audience

the music this time hasn't be quite as enthusiastically received. And it's again directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee, who's now the chief creative officer at Disney Animation.

"Frozen 2" helped thaw a frigid November box office. The last three weeks have seen a string of films rooted in decades-old intellectual property fizzle, including Warner Bros.' "Doctor Sleep," Paramount Pictures' "Terminator: Dark Fate" and Sony Pictures' "Charlie's Angels."

But Elsa could do only so much to move the needle. The weekend was actually down 7% from the same frame last year, according to data firm Comscore. In 2018, there were simply more big movies in the marketplace, including "Ralph Breaks the Internet," "Creed II" and "Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald."

Last week's top film, "Ford v Ferrari" slipped 49% in its second week to a distant second with \$16 million. James Mangold's film, also a Disney release (courtesy of the studio's acquisition of 20th Century Fox),

was roughly on target for the Sony Pictures release, which cost about \$25 million to make. It, too, should be positioned to play well through the holidays.

Less successful was the crime thriller "21 Bridges," starring Chadwick Boseman as a police detective who puts Manhattan on lockdown for a manhunt. Up against steep competition for adult audiences, "21 Bridges" raised \$9.2 million in tolls for STXfilms, a so-so result for a film that cost \$33 million to produce. The film is produced by Anthony and Joseph Russo, whose last movie as directors, "Avengers: Endgame," did slightly better.

Todd Haynes' legal thriller "Dark Waters" opened in four theaters with a strong per-theater average of \$27,467. The Focus Features release, starring Mark Ruffalo, is based on a 2016 New York Times Magazine article about a corporate attorney who sued the Dupont chemical company over the health and environmental effects of a "forever chemical" used by Dupont. □





A caution tape is fixed at the entrance to catacombs under the August Bridge, where a fire destroyed the power supply for the State Art Collection with the Green Vault in Dresden, Germany, Monday, Nov. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

## Thieves steal 'priceless' jewel sets from Dresden museum

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)**—Thieves broke into Dresden's Green Vault, one of the world's oldest museums, early Monday morning, making off with three "priceless" sets of 18th century jewelry that German officials said would be impossible to sell on the open market.

The treasury of Augustus the Strong of Saxony was established in 1723 and today contains around 4,000 objects of gold, precious stones and other materials on display in Dresden's Royal Palace.

Authorities said it appeared the thieves had broken open only one glass case containing three sets of Baroque jewelry made up of dozens of gems each.

"This is a bitter day for the cultural heritage of Saxony," the state's interior minister, Roland Woeller, told reporters.

He said the thieves "stole cultural treasures of immeasurable worth — that is not only the material worth but also the intangible worth to the state of Saxony, which is impossible to estimate."

Police are still carrying out forensic exams of the crime scene and museum officials said they have not yet been able to determine

whether all the 100-or-so pieces were missing, but that the sets included intricate and dazzling brooches, buttons, buckles and other items.

Green Vault director Dirk Syndram stressed that the collections in the museum have "invaluable cultural value" — particularly their completeness.

"Nowhere in any other collection in Europe have jewels or sets of jewels been preserved in this form and quantity," he said. "The value is really in the ensemble." Police said they were alerted shortly before 5 a.m. by unarmed museum security guards who had spotted two burglars inside the downtown museum on video surveillance cameras.

The first officers arrived on the scene within minutes but the thieves had already fled in a waiting getaway car, which managed to elude immediate attempts to find it in the surrounding area and on the nearby highway, Dresden police chief Joerg Kubiessa told reporters.

"It's not just the State Art Collections that was robbed, but us Saxons," Michael Kretschmer, the governor of Saxony, where Dresden is located, tweeted. "One

can't understand the history of Saxony without the Green Vault."

Investigators are currently looking into whether a fire at an electrical junction box near the museum, which took out the streetlights at the time of the robbery was linked to the crime, said Volker Lange, the police officer leading the probe.

He said the outage affected lights in front of a window through which the thieves gained entrance, somehow getting through bars and safety glass.

Lange said they were also trying to determine whether an unregistered car, found on fire nearby with all four doors open and smelling of gasoline, may have been the getaway car.

Dresden's State Art Collections director, Marion Ackermann, said it was impossible to estimate the value of the items.

"We cannot give a value because it is impossible to sell," she said, appealing to the thieves not to break the ensembles into pieces. "The material value doesn't reflect the historic meaning." A special team of investigators has been established to pursue the case, Woeller said. □



This image released by CBS shows Peter Bergman, who portrays Jack Abbott with co-star Melissa Ordway, who portrays his niece Abby Newman on the long-running daytime drama "The Young and the Restless."

Associated Press

## 'Young and the Restless' marks Peter Bergman's milestone

By LYNN ELBER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Five years ago, "The Young and the Restless" celebrated Peter Bergman's quarter-century on the daytime serial with a cake and speeches. The actor says he didn't expect any fuss over his 30th year playing Jack Abbott, but producers devised a plot twist worthy of a soap opera.

To publicly honor the anniversary, Monday's episode was all about Jack and those close to him. As he reads his sister Traci's (Beth Maitland) family memoir, his past is revisited with clips from previous seasons and appearances by other Abbotts, including Eileen Davidson as Ashley.

"As flattered as I was, I didn't know how interesting this was going to be, or how much fun," Bergman said of the retrospective. "Well, I was so moved by the whole thing. It was retracing three decades of my life and, obviously, three decades of Jack's life."

He said he hopes it's enjoyable for viewers as well, including seeing the succession of hairstyles and fashions over the decades.

Bergman stepped in as Jack on Nov. 27, 1989, replacing Terry Lester as the rival to Victor Newman (Eric

Braeden). Bergman, who starred for a decade on "All My Children," has collected a total of 21 Emmy Award nominations for best lead actor and won three trophies for "The Young and the Restless."

His character's growth has kept the work interesting, he said.

"My earliest memories of Jack are of this kind of rakish cad of a fellow, pretty weak sense of moral gravity and out for himself," he said. "And one by one, these relationships Jack has have forced a kind of empathy on the character. He starts to see the world through other people's eyes," with credit to the women he's known.

Bergman is aware that actors rarely have job security, including in the daytime serial realm where the number of shows has been diminished by changed viewing habits.

"A lot of our friends are actors with remarkable resumes, who have struggled and been unemployed for long periods of time," he said. "So to look at this as 30 years of solid work, 30 years where I didn't have to look for work as an actor, is a pretty extraordinary thing. And if I didn't know that on my own, I have lots of friends to remind me." □



# Snag these hotel loyalty perks, even if you're disloyal

By **CLAIRE TSOSIE**  
**Associated Press**

Hotel loyalty benefits — such as access to room upgrades, late checkout and other amenities — aren't reserved only for the most faithful, highest-spending customers anymore. With the right credit card, you can get them, too.

That's because automatic elite status in hotel loyalty programs is an increasingly common feature on credit cards associated with these programs. Now, some cards — such as the Starwood Preferred Guest Luxury Card and Hilton Honors American Express Aspire card, which both carry annual fees of \$450 — even give cardholders access to the upper echelons of elite status.

"The status does make a difference" for consumers, says John Grund, managing director at Accenture Payments, a firm that provides consulting services for banks and payment providers. "(It has) high aspirational value and could certainly be a deciding factor" on whether to get a card. It's not the most predictable credit card benefit; perks can vary based on availability. But if you travel enough, getting a hotel card with automatic elite status can be a clever shortcut to more pleasant stays.

## ROOM UPGRADES

Joe Hegedus of Orlando, Florida, isn't particularly loyal to any one hotel brand — but his co-branded hotel cards still help him get room upgrades. Once, while spending one night at a hotel in Fort Pierce, Florida, with his wife, Sharon, he says he was upgraded to a three-room suite for no extra charge after checking in. At the front desk, "they were like, 'Oh, you're a Platinum member? Thank you



This March 30, 2016, file photo shows a Hilton hotel in Richmond, Va. Automatic elite status in hotel loyalty programs is an increasingly common feature on credit cards associated with these programs.

Associated Press

so much. We went ahead and upgraded you to one of our suites on the top floor," says Hegedus, who works as a pharmacist and co-founded the award travel blog Your Mileage May Vary.

Potential room upgrades are common as a midtier

hotel elite status benefit. They aren't a sure thing, Hegedus notes; they depend on availability. Landing a major upgrade is also rare. But if the hotel has plenty of open rooms, you have a better chance.

## FLEXIBLE CHECK-IN AND CHECKOUT

For weary travelers, the option to check in early or check out late can be a huge relief. And often, the elite status that comes with hotel cards makes this possible.

"We don't usually take advantage of a late check-out, but I'll try to get an

This perk also depends on availability, he notes. But he estimates he's received early check-in more than half the times he's requested it.

## OTHER AMENITIES AND BENEFITS

The hotel elite status that comes with your card might not make your trip significantly cheaper, but it can make it more comfortable. Some hotel chains, such as Hyatt and InterContinental Hotels Group, promise elite members a dedicated check-in area or phone line. Others offer a free breakfast to those with status.

There's also the potential to rack up free hotel nights faster. With elite status, you generally earn a bonus of 10% to 100% on any points earned through the hotel for your stay, depending on your status and the program. Combined with the points you're already earning on your hotel credit card, that could help you cover a vacation with your rewards a lot sooner.

## WHAT ABOUT THE ANNUAL FEE?

With hotel cards, higher annual fees translate to more perks. But how much value you get from those perks depends on your travel habits. The good news: You have options.

"What I would call the ladder of benefits (on hotel cards) has become more sophisticated, more refined and certainly tied in with an expanded portfolio of credit card offerings," says Grund of Accenture Payments, noting that several hotel brands have recently updated offers or debuted new cards. Nowadays, you can find hotel cards with annual fees of \$0, \$95 or \$450, and benefits that run the gamut from free anniversary nights each year to airport lounge access.

Don't plan to stay with a certain hotel more than once? You're probably better off without a hotel card. But if you can use the benefits enough to make up for the annual fee and then some, such a card could be a worthy addition to your wallet. □



In this Sept. 5, 2018, file photo guests stand at the front desk at the Embassy Suites by Hilton hotel in Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood in Seattle.

Associated Press



early check-in," Hegedus says, noting his hotel cards offer these benefits. "Most times, it just means I show up at the hotel early and they see I have some status with the program. Hopefully it means they give me (an early) room."